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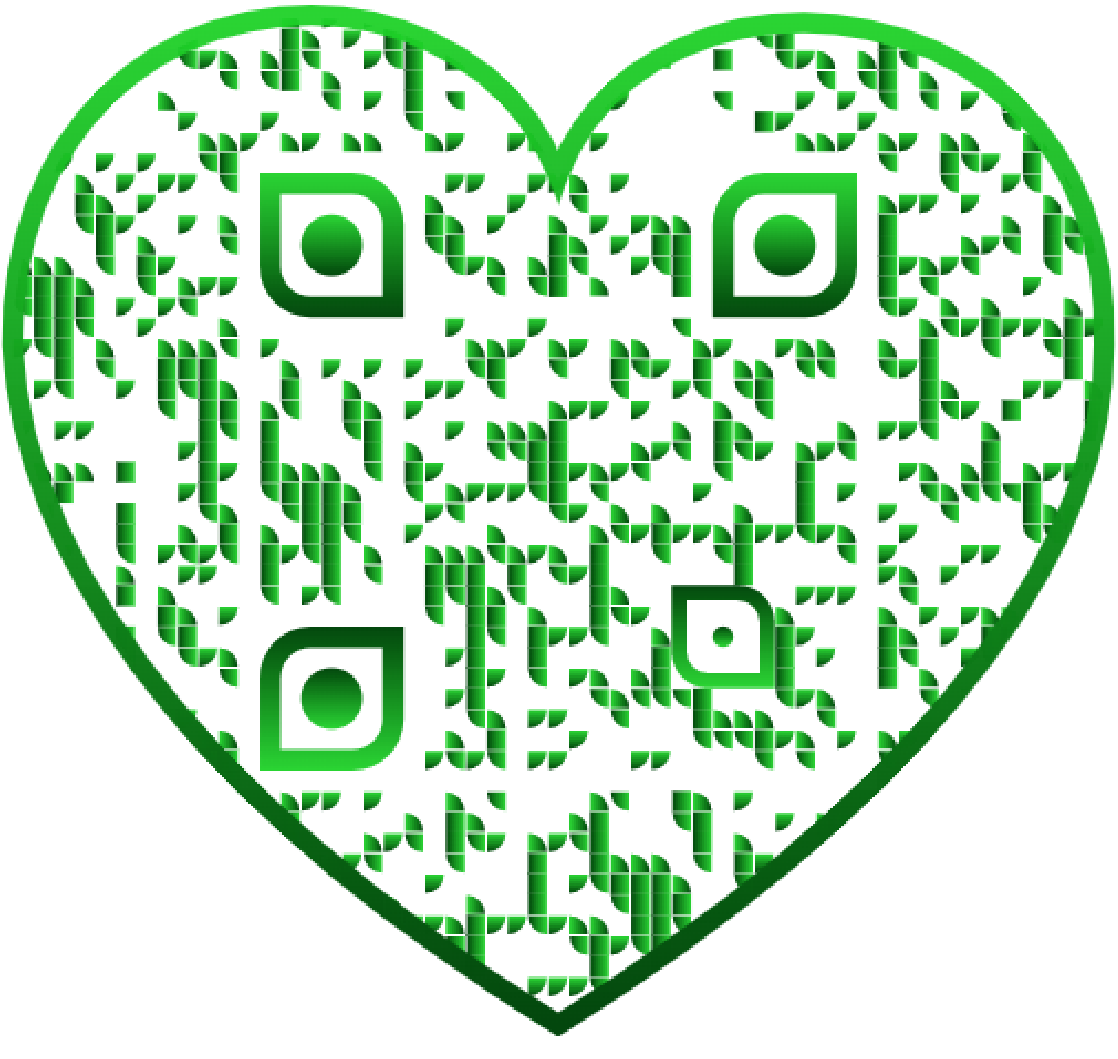

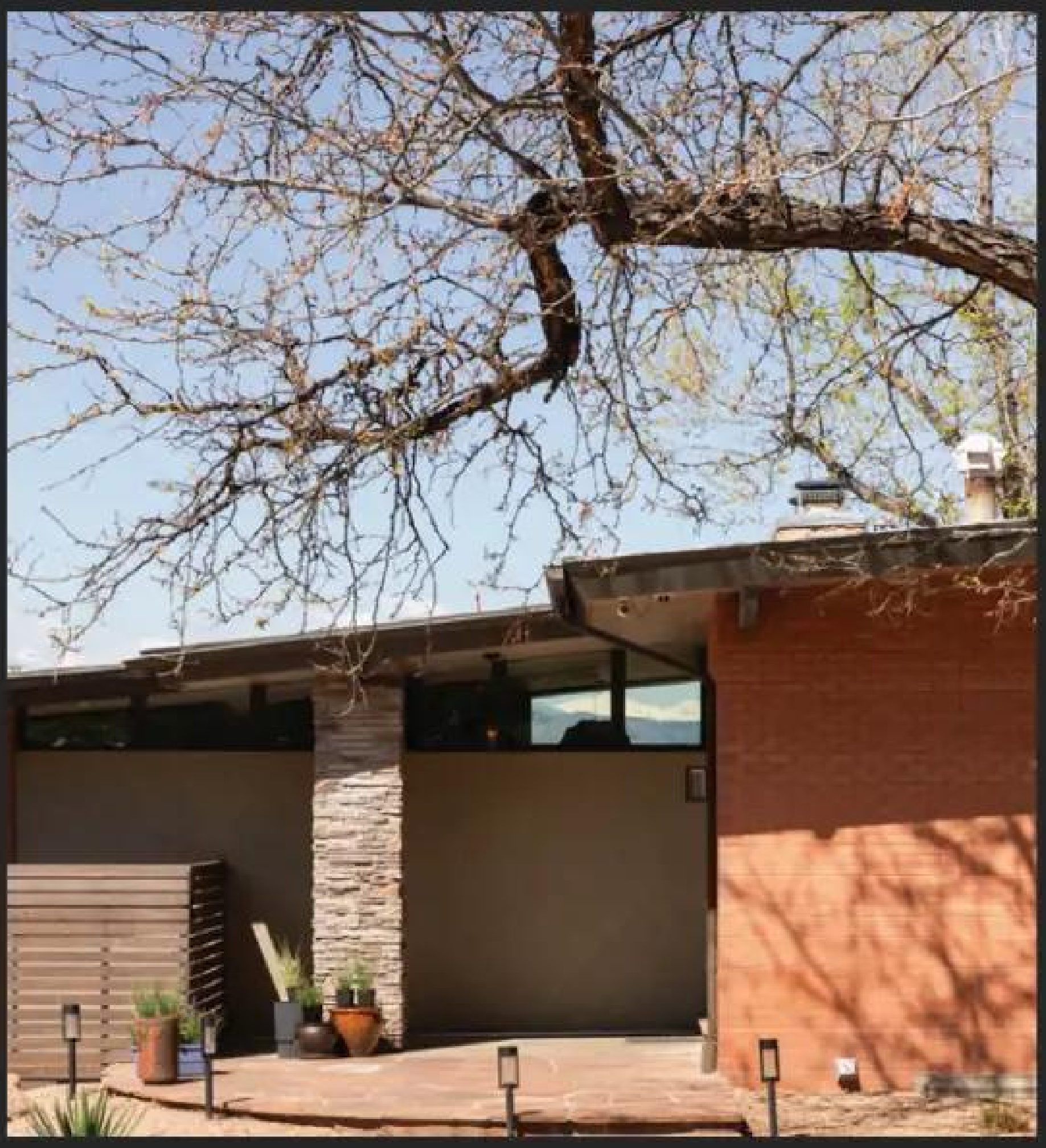

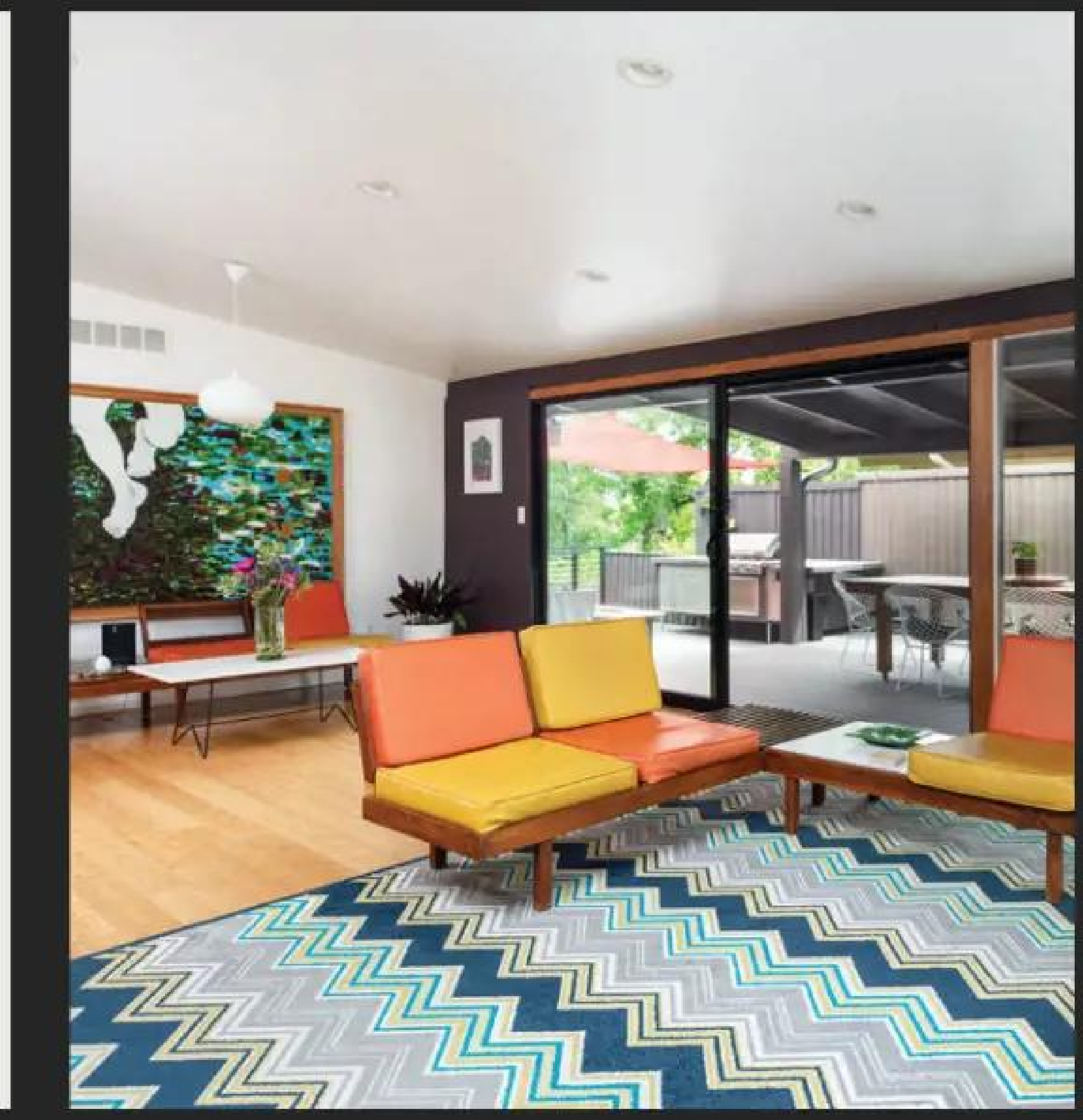

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contents | Fall 2025

38

House Tours

24 California Dreamin'
A Mid Century Modern home in Indiana with Golden State details comes back to life in the Midwest

38 Remastering A Krisel
A contractor and designer team up to both honor and enhance a vacation home for a young family.

52 Breathing new Life
Designed and owned by Boise architect Vic Hosford, this 1958 home gets a second life with minimal thoughtful renovations that elevate its original character and beauty.

Features

66 Designed to Rent
Homeowners of a 1957 Elexander Krisel home give an inside perspective on getting an MCM home to be a vacation rental.

74 Primary Priority
Bedroom décor ideas to create a perfectly cozy respite.

78 Mid Century ABC's
A comprehensive look at the world of design produced in the Mid Century Modern Era reveals how much the modernist movement touched all things.

Columns

8 On Design
Creating Cohesion: How to design a home where all the elements work together.

10 Cool Stuff
Fabulous Finds for a great bedroom.

12 Period Picks
Our choices for a top tier dining room.

14 Curb Appeal
Check our winner of 2024 Curb Appeal Contest in Littleton, Colorado

16 Atomic Kitchens
A mid century kitchen and dining facelift allows for a fun and functional reimagining of a once cramped and divided space.

Departments

6 Editor's Letter
82 Collecting: Hans Bollings Duck & Duckling
84 Web Update
86 Advertisers
88 Resources
90 Last Look

Cover
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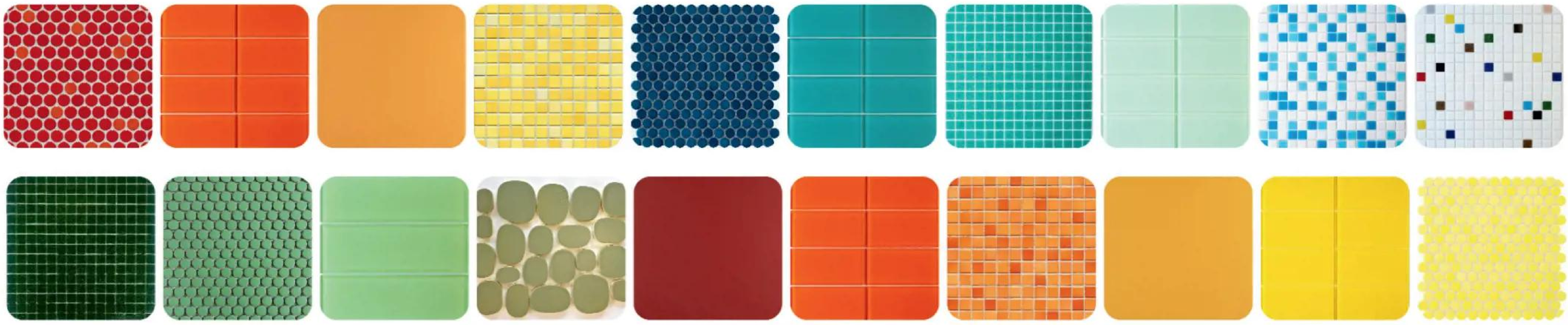

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THE MEANING OF HOME

FOR MODERNISTS, home is often a far from perfect place. Home many times means a long list of things that need to get done. Home can be mid project, learning to live with upturned floors, or missing cabinets. Home is a budget for things that are happening or need to get done. Home can be a wish, something you are always keeping an eye out for or hope that you get to have one day.

But home is also a dream. It's a vision. It's a promise. And for me fall is the time that makes me most introspective about home and what you work so hard to make it be. And like the seasons of the year, our relationships with home are sometimes good, sometimes not so good. Sometimes we shake our fist in the air at all the things a home needs. Other times, we reconcile with home and being in it and appreciating the journey of making a home is healing.

In this issue we explore spaces that see the journey of a home at the completion phase. Homes that mean something to its homeowners, that are emblematic of a dream fulfilled or in one case, it's sparked a new dream and a whole new line of work.

I hope it reminds you that no matter what phase your home is in, keep going.

Jickie Torres

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EG MEDIA INVESTMENTS LLC
Rima Dorsey: Managing Director/Publisher

EDITORIAL
Content Director and Brand Leader: Jickie Torres

DESIGN
Design Director: Gabby Oh

CONTRIBUTORS
Michelle Mastro, Laura Shimko, Victoria Van Vlear, Meryl Schoenbaum, Jolene Nolte

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Oscar Flink, Bret Gum, Lance Gerber, Sarah Shields

ADVERTISING
Emma Dorsey: Account Representative
Elizabeth Galletta: Account Representative
Jenny Van Wieren Page: Account Representative
Madison Wintrich: Account Representative
Sebastian Tirkey: Advertising Traffic Coordinator
Vipin Marwaha: Advertising Traffic Manager
For advertising inquiries: rdorsey@egmediamags.com

OPERATIONS
Shailesh Khandelwal: Vice President - Operations
Mohammad Danish: Manager - Subscriptions
Surajpal Singh Bisht: Prepress Manager
Manzoor Ahmed & Deepak Kumar: Production, Newsstand and Circulation Executives

EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION & SALES OFFICE
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(844) 330-6373, Fax (972-920-3737)
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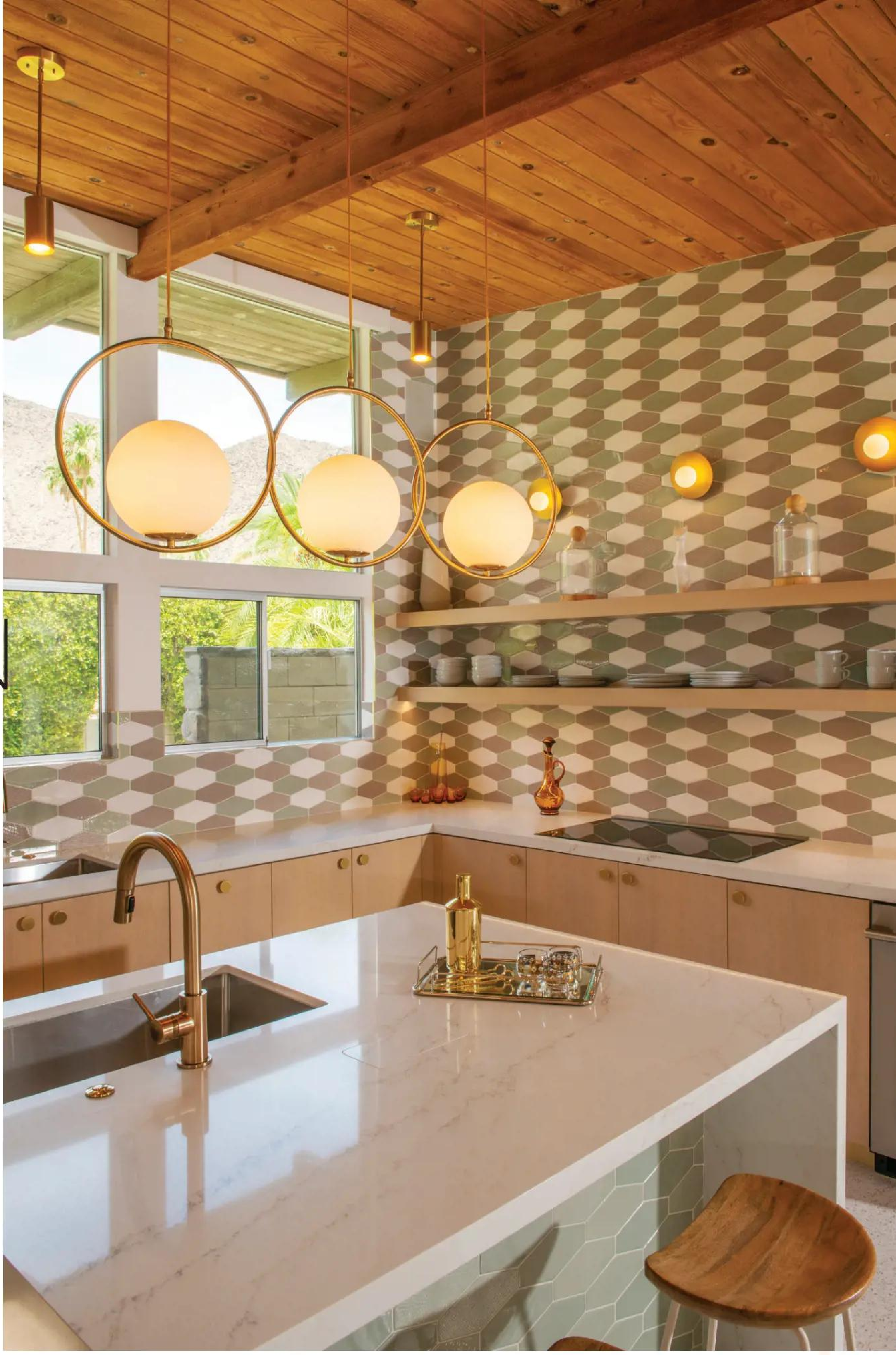

CREATING COHESION

How to design a home where all the elements work together.

By **Jickie Torres** • Photo by **Dan Chavkin**

IT'S ONE THING to embark on a renovation and make decisions on the right flooring, hardware and lighting. It can feel altogether more daunting when you consider that all your choices have to work together in harmony and look right! We culled some advice from our interior design experts to share some of their trade secrets for creating a cohesive home.

This kitchen design by Michelle Boudreau plays on repeating shapes to create a dynamic yet unified design.

"ROOMS ARE like a capsule wardrobe; you want everything to work together. But you also need to make sure a room is visually dynamic. Think about incorporating five different elements: print or pattern, texture, color, shine or metallic and something living like greenery. This ensures that your space is stylish and not staid."

Christine Ho
Breathe Design Studio
Austin, TX

"PAY CLOSE ATTENTION to undertones. You can vary the value (lightness or darkness) of wood in a space, but the undertones must work with one another. For example, some woods have a gray undertone and some have orange undertones. You would pair wood with gray undertones with other woods with gray undertones, and the same goes for orange, yellow, etc."

Sarah Stacey
Sarah Stacey Interior Design
Nashville, TN

CHOOSE A complementary color or two and be very thoughtful about where to integrate them throughout your design. It's not about being matchy matchy, it's more about having some commonality that ties the spaces together.

Sally Julien
Modernous
Seattle, WA

"WORKING FROM a point of inspiration can help create a subtle theme. I had a client who was passionate about sailing and traveling in the beauty of the oceans and seas. Thus, the house now uses variations of water colors to flow throughout the home, ranging from vibrant turquoise to rich navy blues. There's also a repeating motif of circles inspired by the idea of a porthole. The mixtures of shape and patterns create dimension and individuality and invite you to explore the interesting differences of each room."

Michelle Boudreau
Michelle Boudreau Design
Palm Springs, CA

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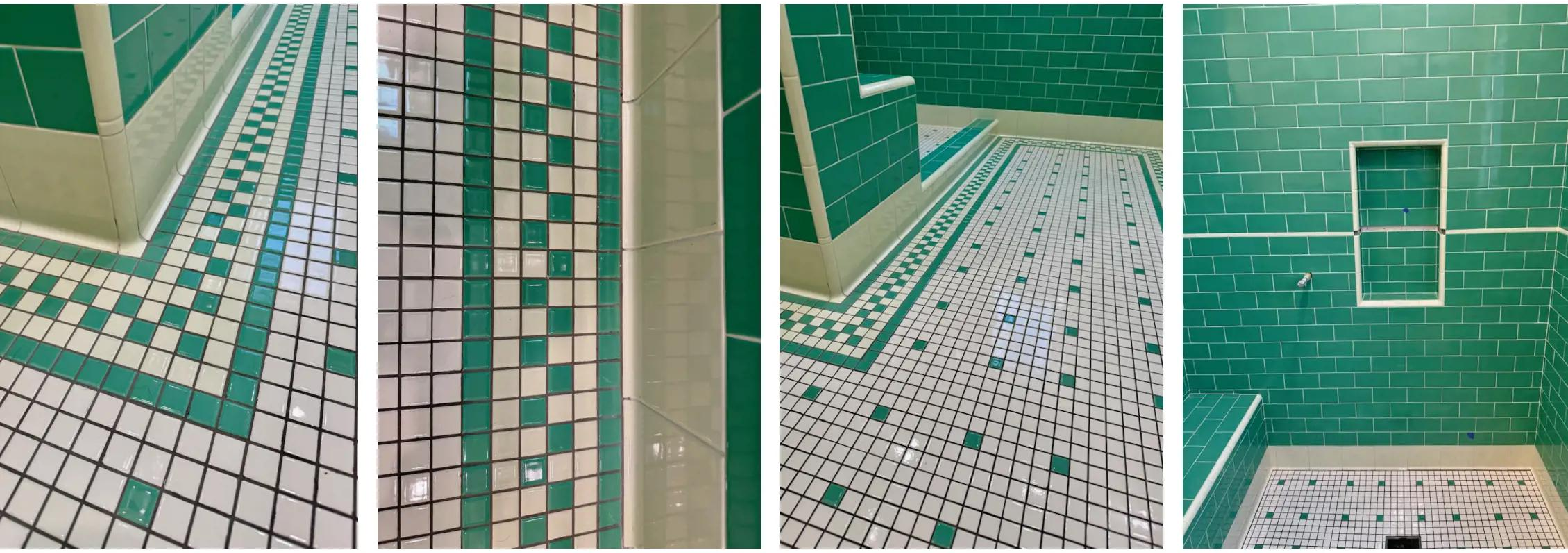

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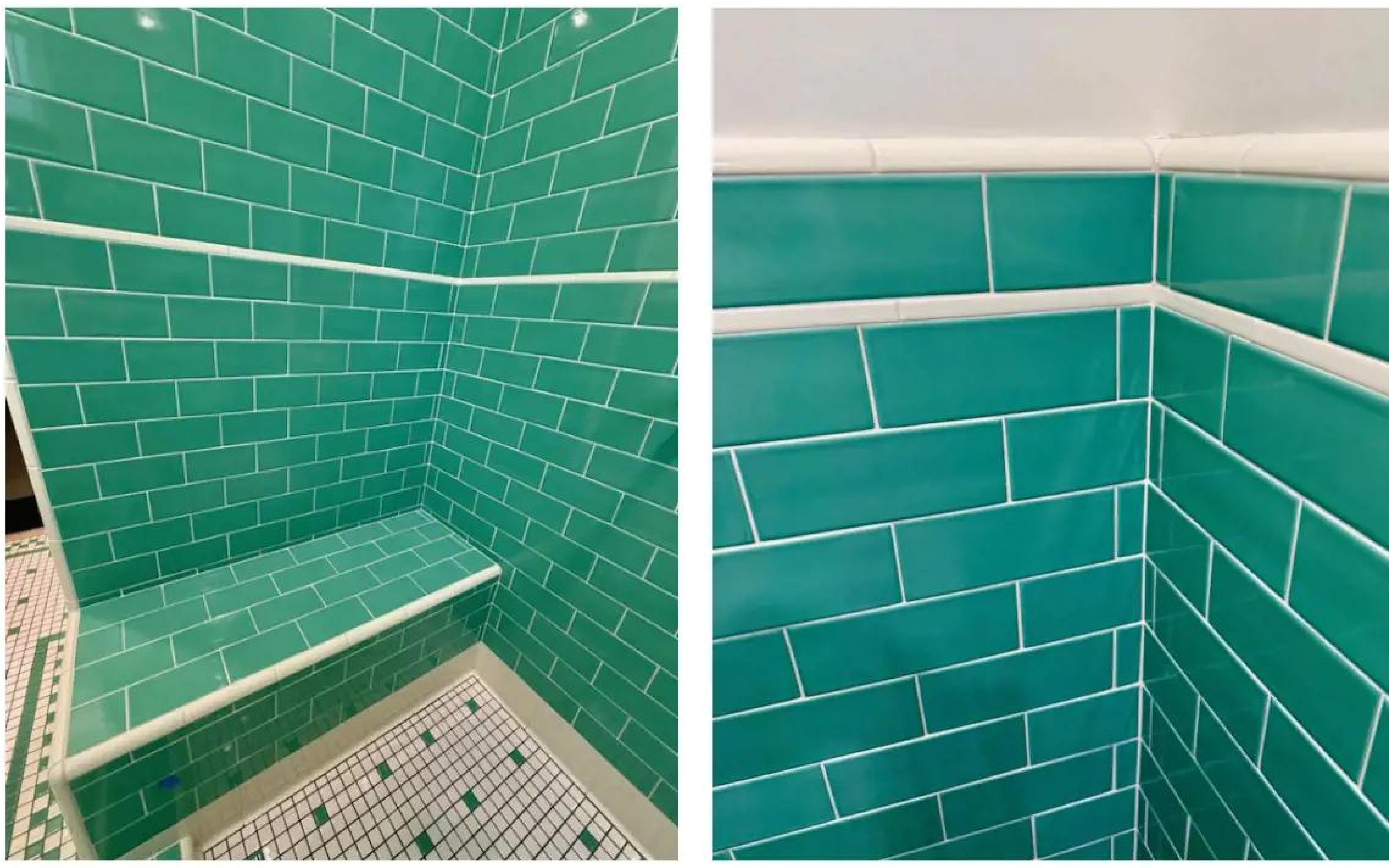

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SLEEP SANCTUARY

Cozy finds to refresh your place of rest.

By **Jickie Torres**

1

2

3

1. Two-tone ovoid bubbles textured pillow in dark green, $90 each. Visit **calabazagoods.com**.
2. Oslo table lamp in oxblood, $129. Visit **article.com**.
3. Twist clay leather floor basket, $116. Visit **unisonhome.com**.
4. Brasilia Model 3 credenza, $3,000. Visit **westcoastmodernla.com**.
5. Ikebana vase, $58. Visit **hawkinsnewyork.com**.
6. Andes Acacia Wood platform queen bed with nightstands, $999. Visit **CB2.com**.

4

5

6

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PeriodPicks

FINE DINING

With entertaining season coming, it's time to spruce up the dining room. By **Jickie Torres**

1. August 4-light chandelier by Troy Lighting, $1,104. Visit **hudsonvalleylighting.com**.
2. Drift green 4-piece dinnerware set with reactive glaze, $44.80 each. Visit **CB2.com**.
4. Essential footed bowl set of three in mustard, $150. Visit **hawkinsnewyork.com**.
4. Kähler Hammershøi salad servers designed by Hans-Christian Bauer, $50. Visit **us.rosendahl.com**.
5. Penny chair, available in walnut, white oak or maple. $1,095 in leather or $1,195 in custom fabric. Visit **anthonylamorte.com**.
6. Teagan 92-inch dining table, $1,899. Visit **allmodern.com**.

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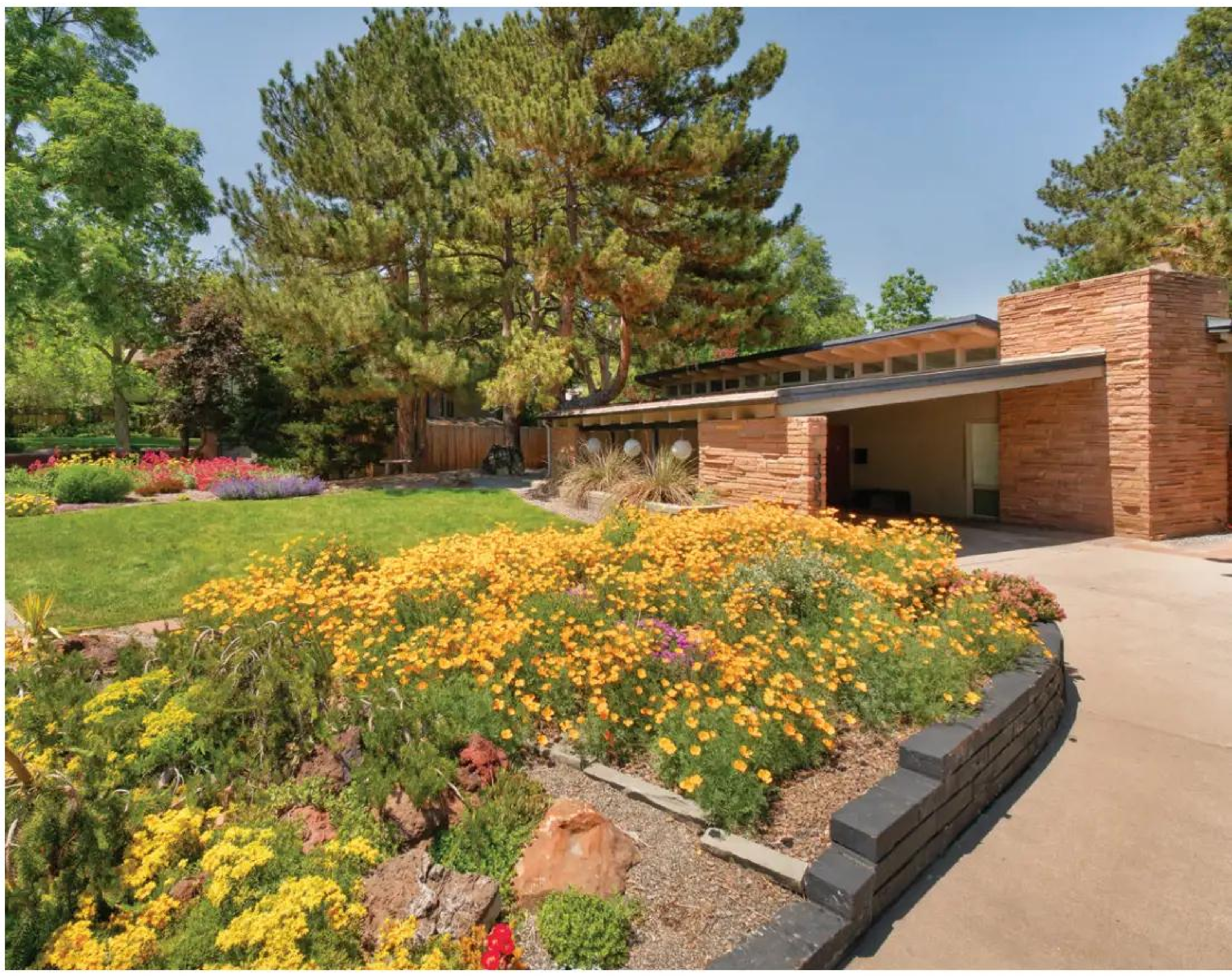
The house features two opposing shed roofs, the top roof extending to overlap the lower roof with fourteen clerestory windows bringing light and fresh air into the house. It is one of 54 houses that contributed to Arapaho Hills designation as a historic district in the National Register of Historic Places.

VOTED BEST

We're pleased to present our 2024 Curb Appeal Contest winner! Here, homeowner Mira Edelman shares what she loves about her home's front façade and how she aims to ensure that it continues to contribute to the beauty of her special neighborhood.

By **Mira Edleman** • Photo by **Atom Stevens**



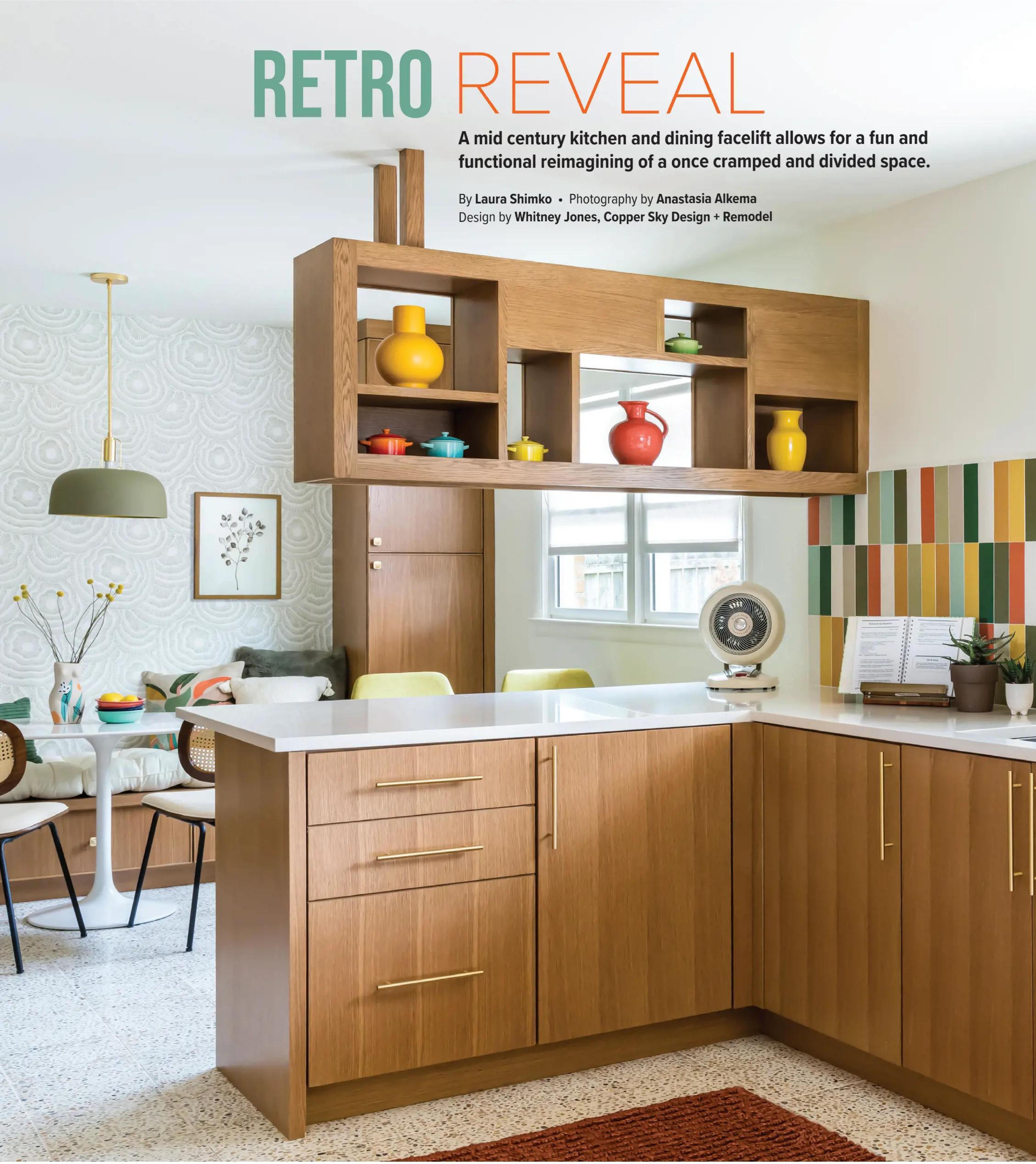
MY WESTERN STYLE USONIAN RANCH is tucked onto its lot among four grand ponderosa pine trees near the northeast corner of the Arapaho Hills subdivision developed by Edward B. Hawkins and Clyde Mannon between 1955 and 1964 in Littleton, Colorado. Designed by architect Bruce R. Sutherland, Downey House, named for its original owner, is framed by a curvilinear driveway that ends beneath a two-car carport positioned across the face of the house. Random-range ashlar masonry of native red sandstone forms a massive rectangular chimney at the southeast corner of the house. A second sandstone masonry wall carries the carport roof, with the main entry hidden beneath.

It is the native landscaping, though, which takes advantage of an expansive 25-foot setback that makes Downey House truly special and attracted my attention in May 2019 shortly after I moved from Silicon Valley to Colorado. The previous homeowner Joe Hoy, former sheriff of Eagle County, Colorado, had been working over the previous six years to transform the once dull lawn into a high-desert-friendly garden. Joe removed an enormous and unkempt spruce tree from the southeast corner of the lawn and began planting drought tolerant plants including a variety of sedum, euphorbia, succulents such as hens & chicks, prickly pear cactus, and vivid pink ice plants that hug lava rocks on what would affectionately become known as "The Mound." A low sculptural pine tree meanders among the water-efficient plants, jutting out toward the sidewalk.

The main feature of The Mound is now a sea of blazing California poppies that Joe planted from seed. The poppies keep me connected to my time in California.

The southwest side of the lawn is framed by perennials including yarrow, jupiter's beard, creeping lemon thyme, Colorado gold gazania, Mojave and Russian sage, and purple ornamental oregano plants. It is a pollinator's dream. Fat bumblebees, butterflies, and even hummingbirds perpetually hover. A giant red sandstone boulder punctuates a curved sandstone path to the back yard, and a concrete-block raised planter box spans the face of the open carport and contains three red yucca shrubs that spawn 5-8 feet tall bloom stalks.

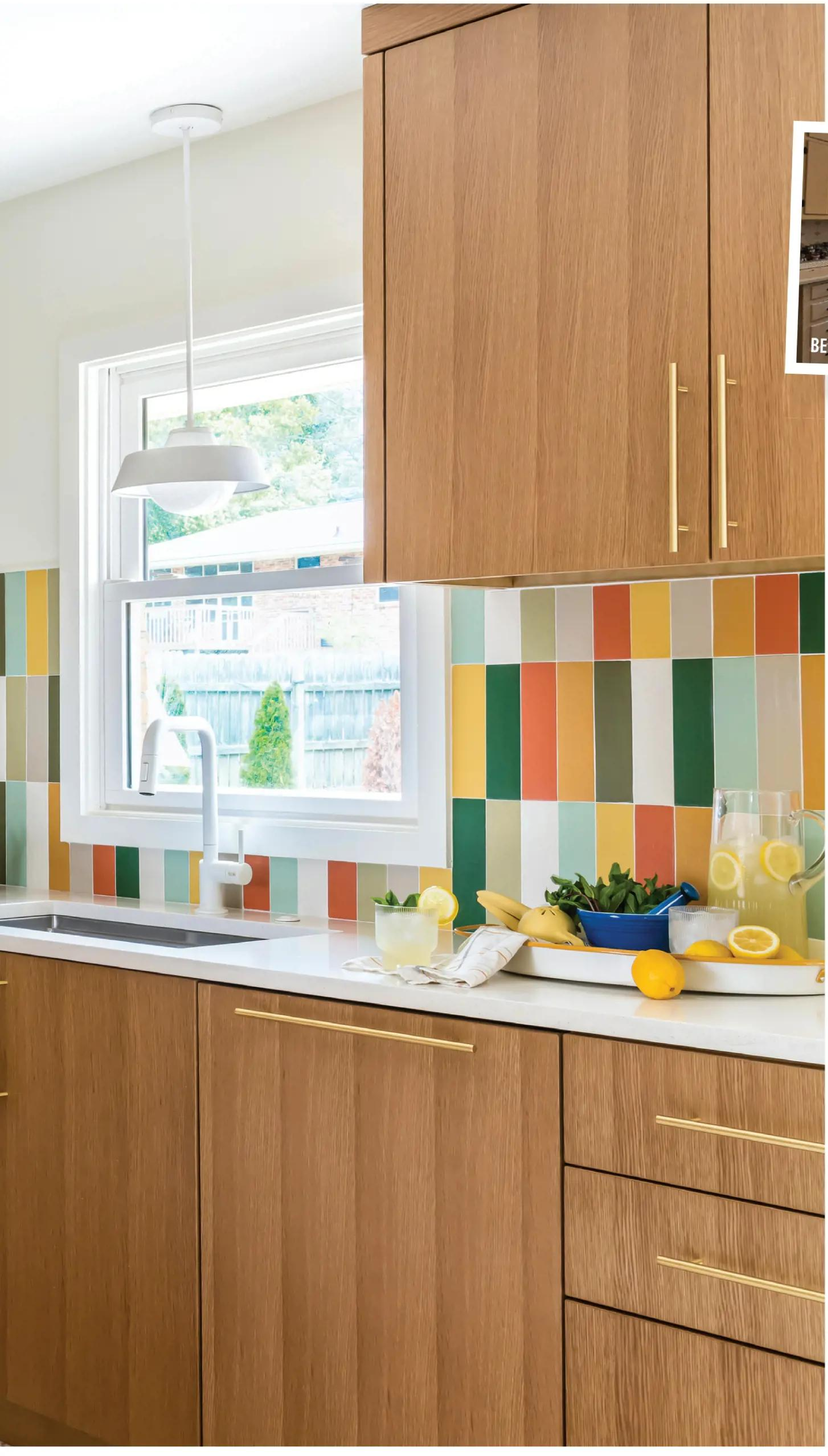
Each time I turn the corner onto my block and see the lush garden, my mood instantly lifts. I promised Joe I would maintain and improve this spectacular garden, which has become a showcase for our tight-knit neighborhood.

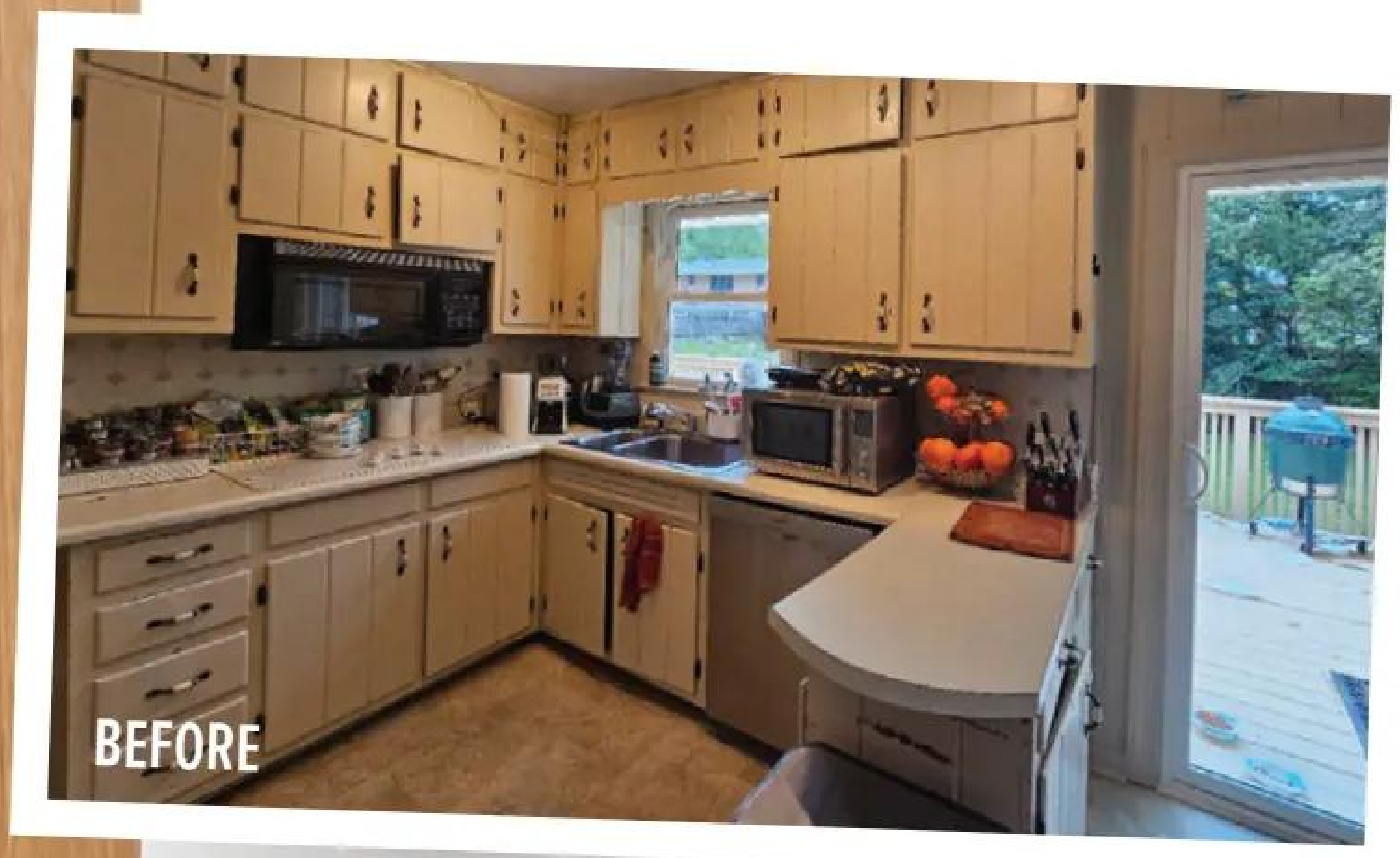


RETRO REVEAL

A mid century kitchen and dining facelift allows for a fun and functional reimagining of a once cramped and divided space.

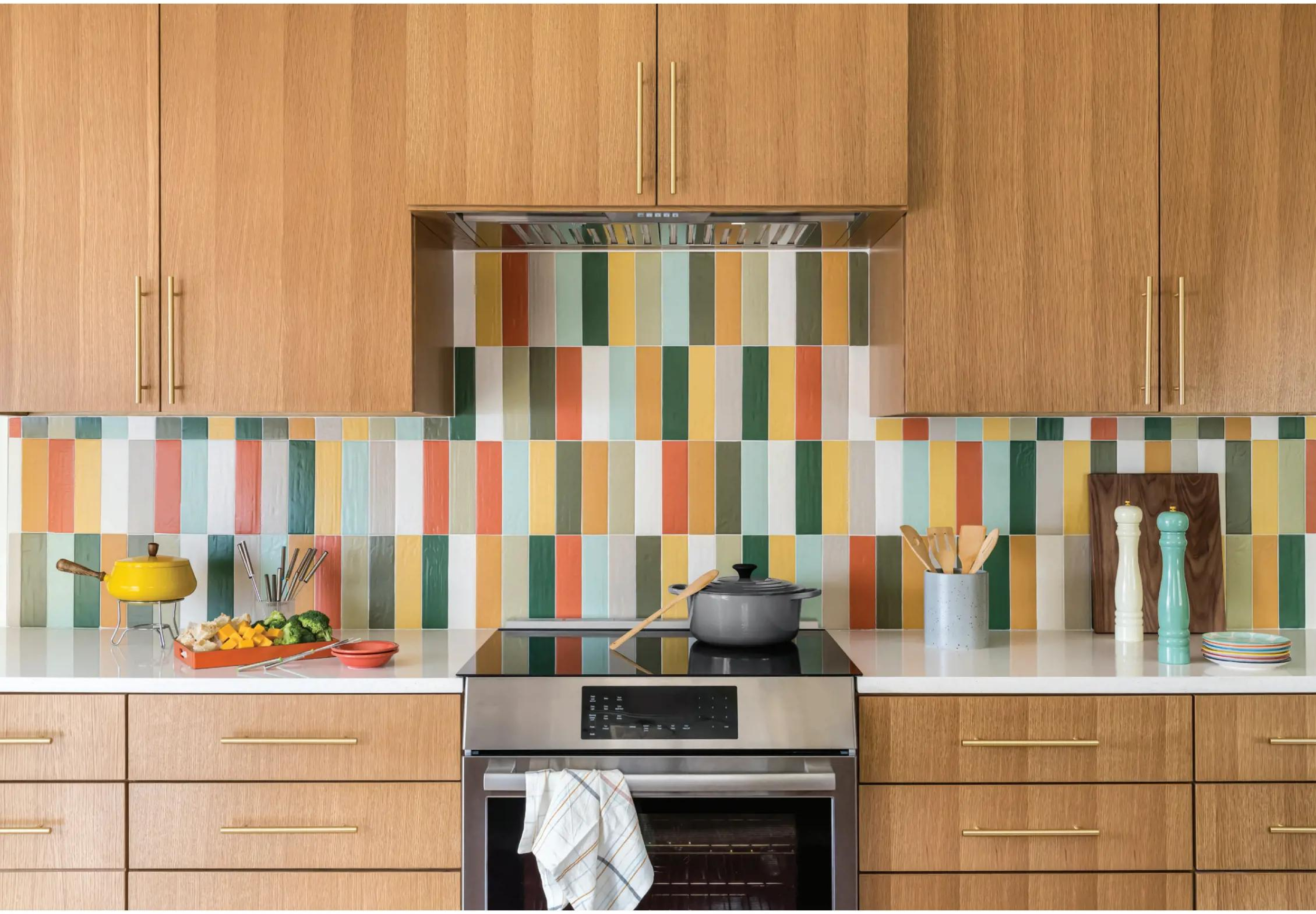
By **Laura Shimko** • Photography by **Anastasia Alkema**
Design by **Whitney Jones, Copper Sky Design + Remodel**





ONE OF THE BEAUTIES OF renovating Mid Century Modern homes is in the synthesis of past and present design sensibilities. Many MCM homes were created with main living spaces carefully sectioned off, clearly delineating each area into its own private space. However, contemporary preferences lean towards open and shared spaces, creating more subtle separation to allow for greater overall connection and cohesion. These updates, when done respectfully, allow for the best of the original design to shine through.

With a refreshed design, the kitchen and dining areas now look and feel seamlessly connected while also maintaining subtle hints at delineation. "We love the suspended display cabinet over the peninsula as it created a visual partition between the two spaces," Whitney says. "The homeowners requested a variety of seating preferences and by designating different zones, we were able to create additional opportunities for seating: casual seating on the bar stools and formal seating at the banquette. There is a connection across the entirety of the space while also having a sense of destination."



Color plays a large role in the Mid Mod vibe of the space. The palette selection keeps true to the era, and was inspired by a fun source. “The homeowners had a collection of vintage Fiesta Tableware in assorted colors, which we used as a jumping off point,” says Whitney. “They were lively and unapologetic, and that is just what we hoped to achieve with the overall renovation — a reflection of their interests while remaining rooted in function.”

The homeowners of this 1963 home in Atlanta, Georgia embarked upon their renovation with very practical goals and concerns for their kitchen and dining area. They contacted Whitney Jones, Lead Interior Designer at Copper Sky Design + Remodel to help accomplish their plans, as well as provide guidance on style. “The homeowners were in need of an improved layout, additional storage within the kitchen, and a place to eat,” says Whitney. “They wanted to have an eat-in kitchen, which they originally accomplished by placing an oversized breakfast table near the stairs, but it was in the way of the natural traffic pattern and left much to be desired.”

RESHAPING

The original layout of the two spaces involved a small and cramped dining room at the far-left end of the home, and a sorely outdated kitchen in the center. Divided and dark, each area suffered from lack of flow and connection. Additionally, there were very practical updates to be made to allow the homeowners use of each space. “All of the appliances were original and several were no longer functioning, so we focused on improving function with modern units that served their current lifestyle,” says Whitney.

The biggest change that Whitney made was tearing down the wall that sequestered the two spaces. “The homeowners expressed that they rarely used the formal dining room, and found themselves often sitting at the eat-in table,” she says. “By taking down the dividing wall, we were able to combine the spaces into one, eliminate the redundant table and chair arrangements, and create designated zones to maximize use: social, cooking, and dining.”

Your Home Deserves

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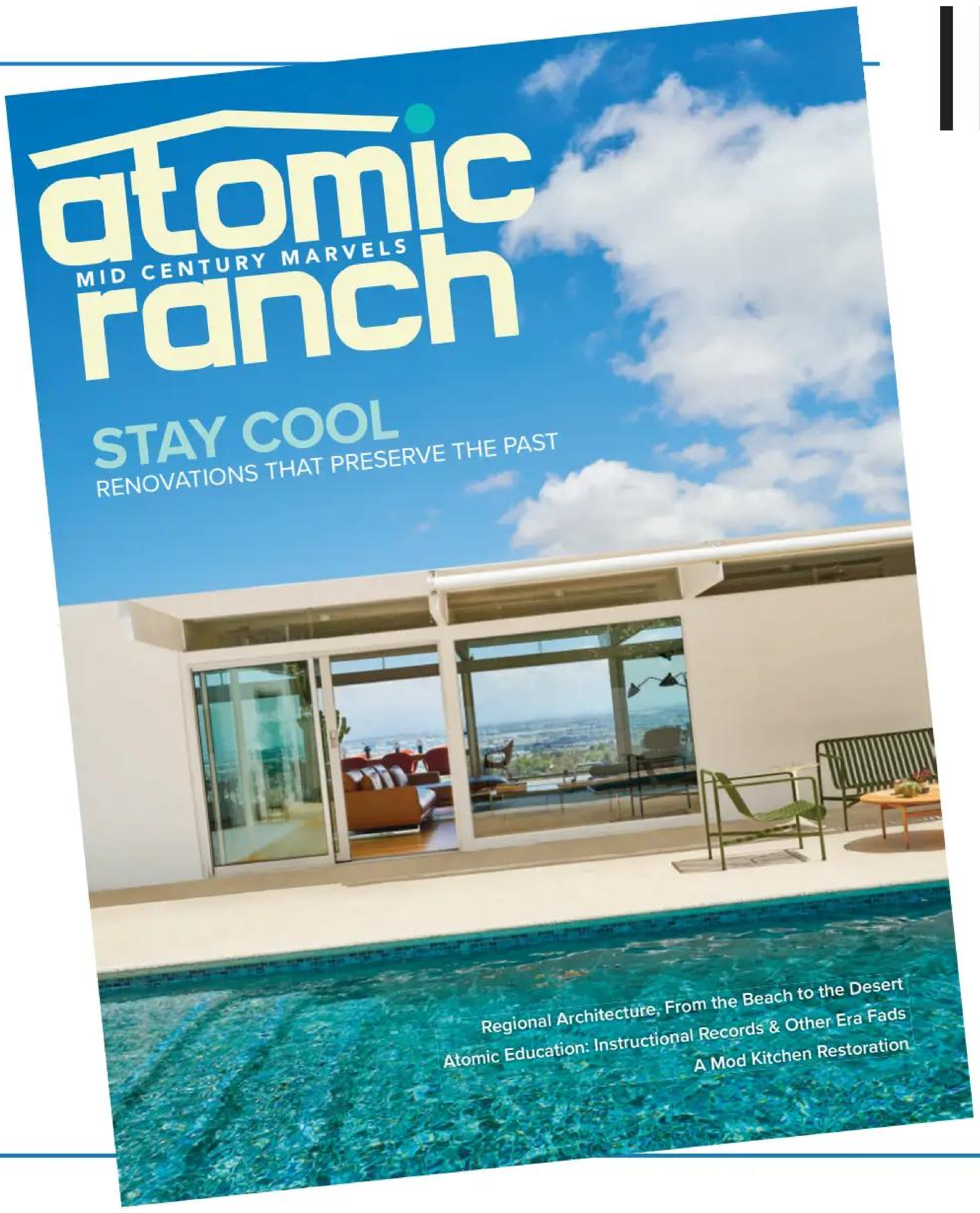
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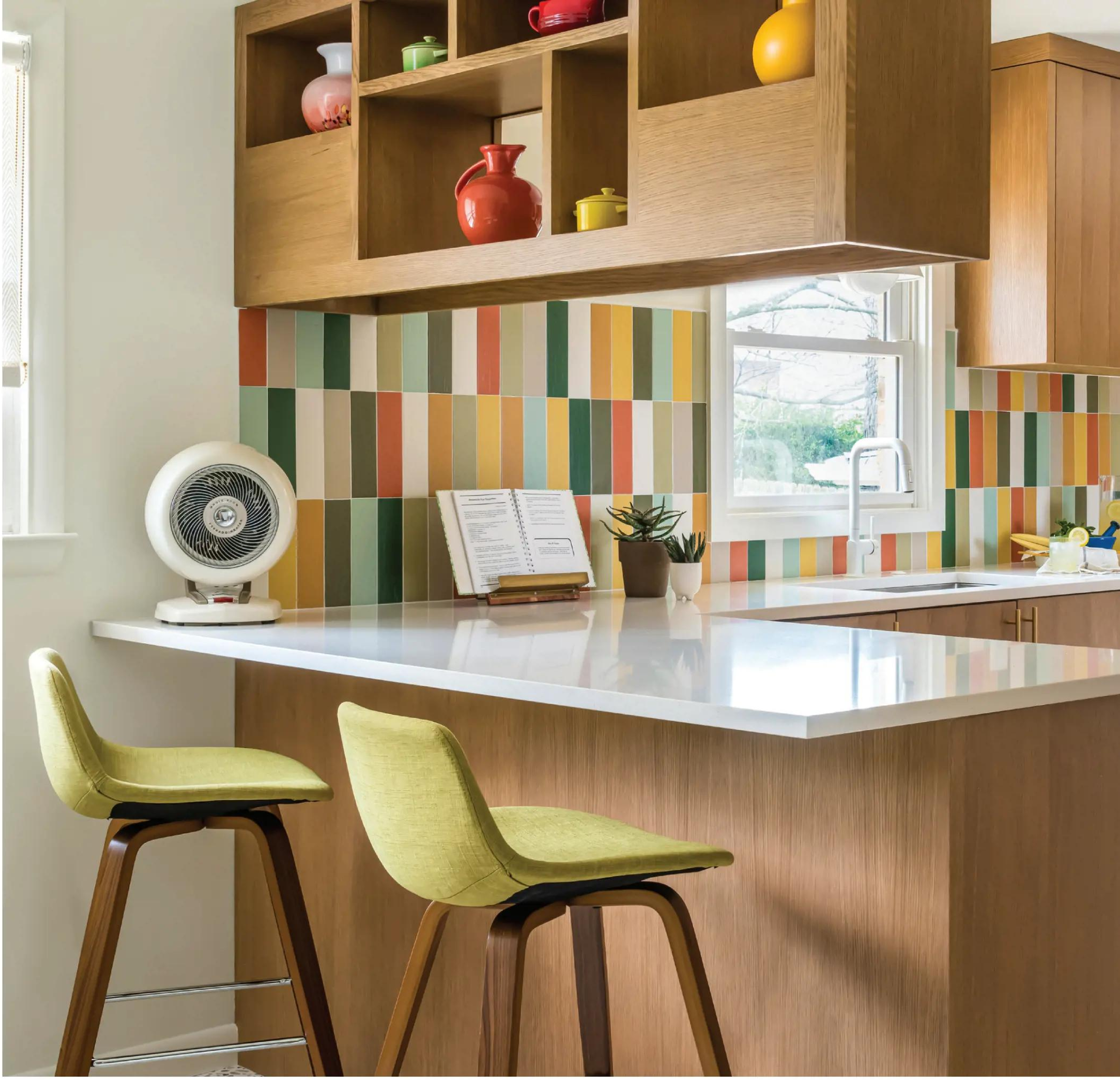


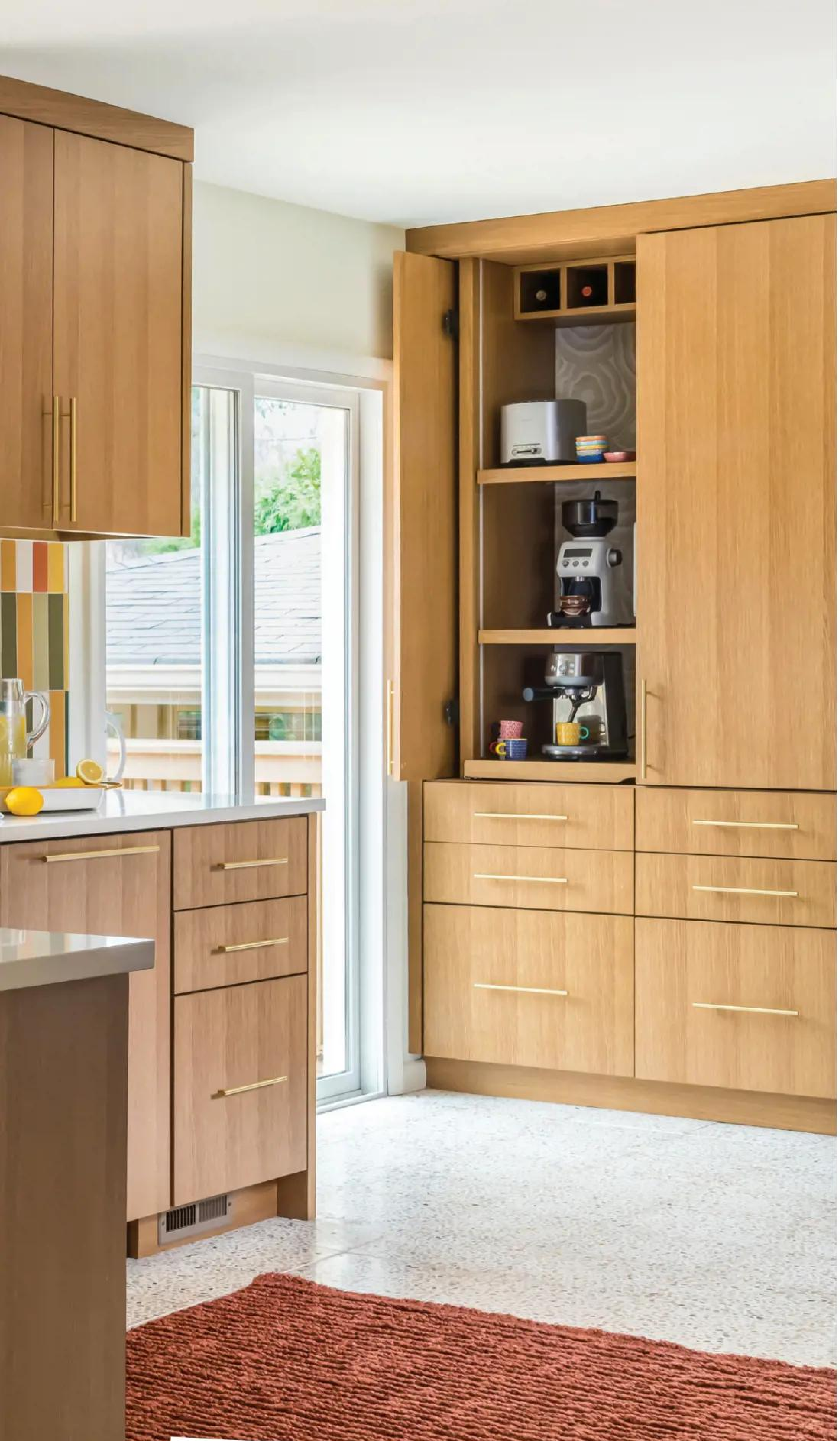
RETRO-FYING

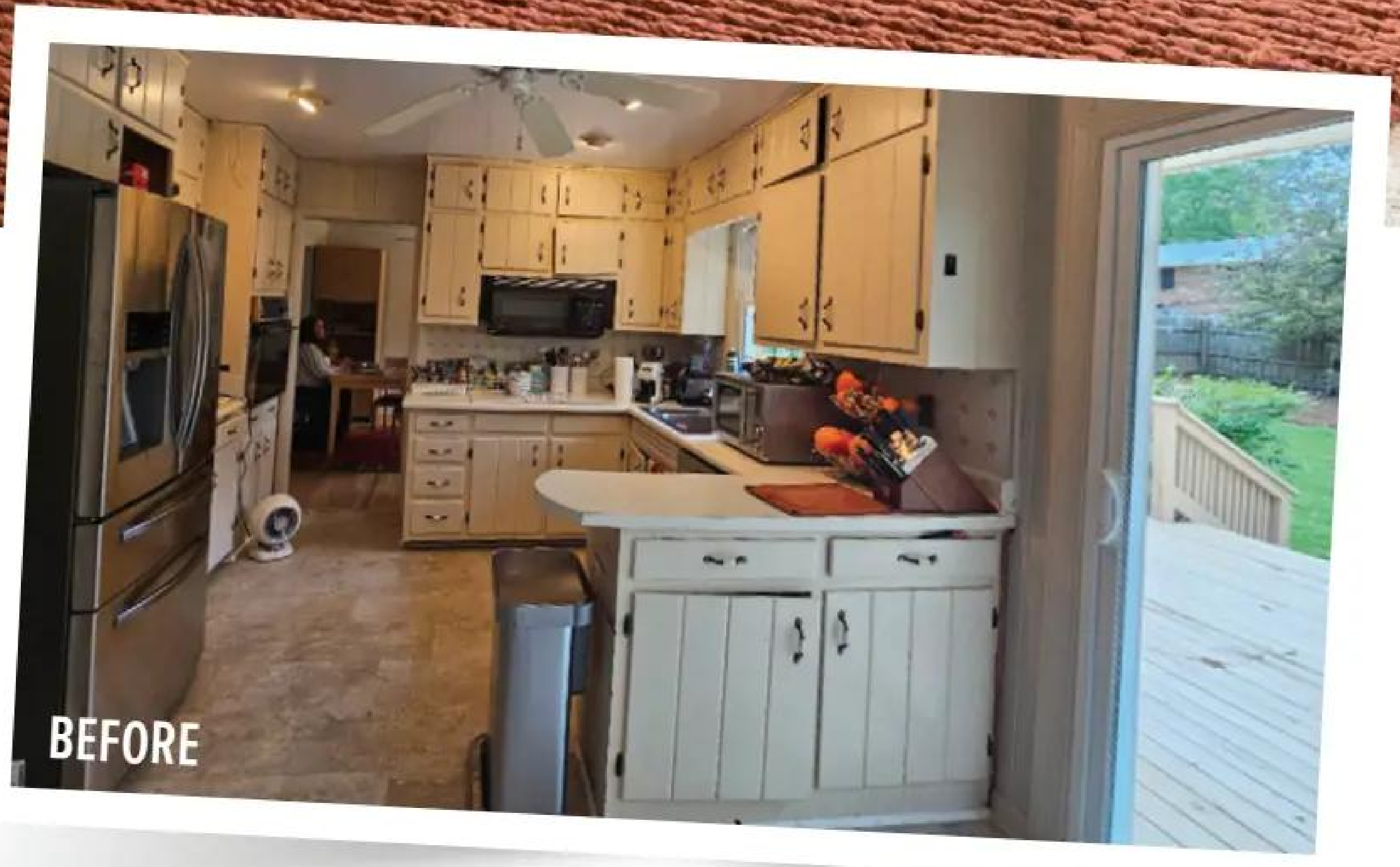
While the homeowners were mainly concerned with creating a kitchen and dining area they could actually use, Whitney made sure the design would be fabulous as well as functional. At the outset, the homeowners did not have any specific aesthetic vision for the space, but were open to Whitney's input and guidance. "After our initial discussions, we uncovered that they were lovers of color and were fond of mid-century modern style," she says. "We decided to create a scheme which played up classic, streamlined MCM millwork paired with playful colorways."

Because the goals of the renovation necessitated a complete tear down to the studs, Whitney and the homeowners were able to choose all new materials for the newly opened up space. This meant that rather than trying to piece together elements like patching a quilt, they were able to create an entirely fresh, cohesive, and personalized design that looks and feels Mid Mod with a slight contemporary touch. "To make the space feel retro, we chose stained slab cabinetry reminiscent of the period, sputnik inspired brass cabinet knobs at the banquette, large aggregate terrazzo tile, and the use of saturated colorways within the tile splash," Whitney says. "Supporting elements such as the decorative pendant lights and wallpaper helped bridge the eras between the old they loved and the new they craved."

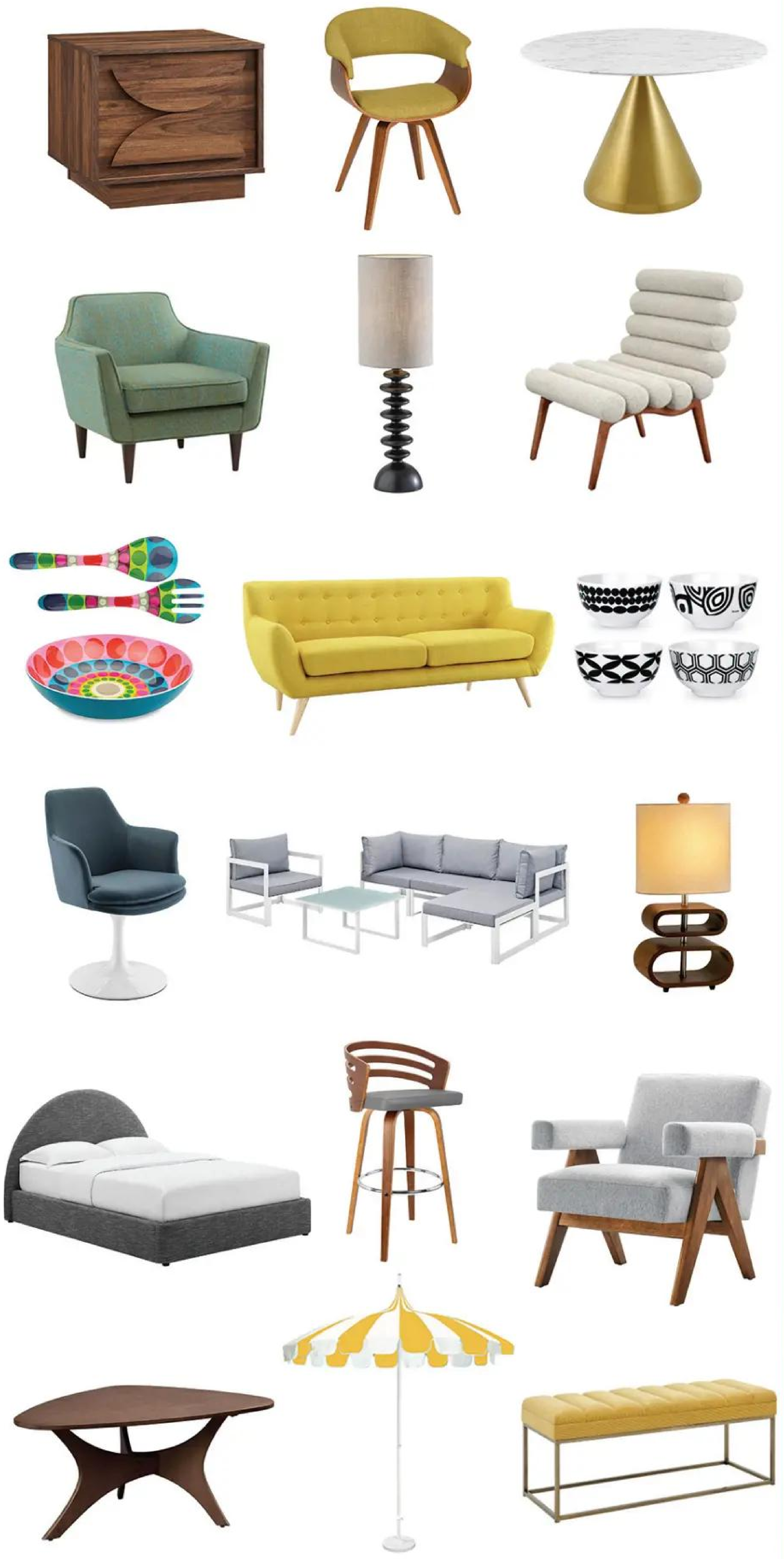
With a bright, fun and distinctly Mid Century Modern redesign, this kitchen shines with the best of past and present.

SEE RESOURCES, PAGE 88





top: Tearing down the dividing wall between dining and kitchen areas made an immense impact on the utility and feel of the space. While no changes were made to the placement of doors and windows in order to keep costs reasonable, there were some modifications to the structure in addition to the removal of the non-load-bearing wall. “There was also an unusual open wall structure cantilevered between the kitchen and lower den, which had no real purpose and created a catch-all condition, which we wanted to eliminate,” Whitney says. “By infilling the opening, we were able to provide a new bank of full height cabinetry to house the fridge and appliance garage, which doubles as a coffee bar.”



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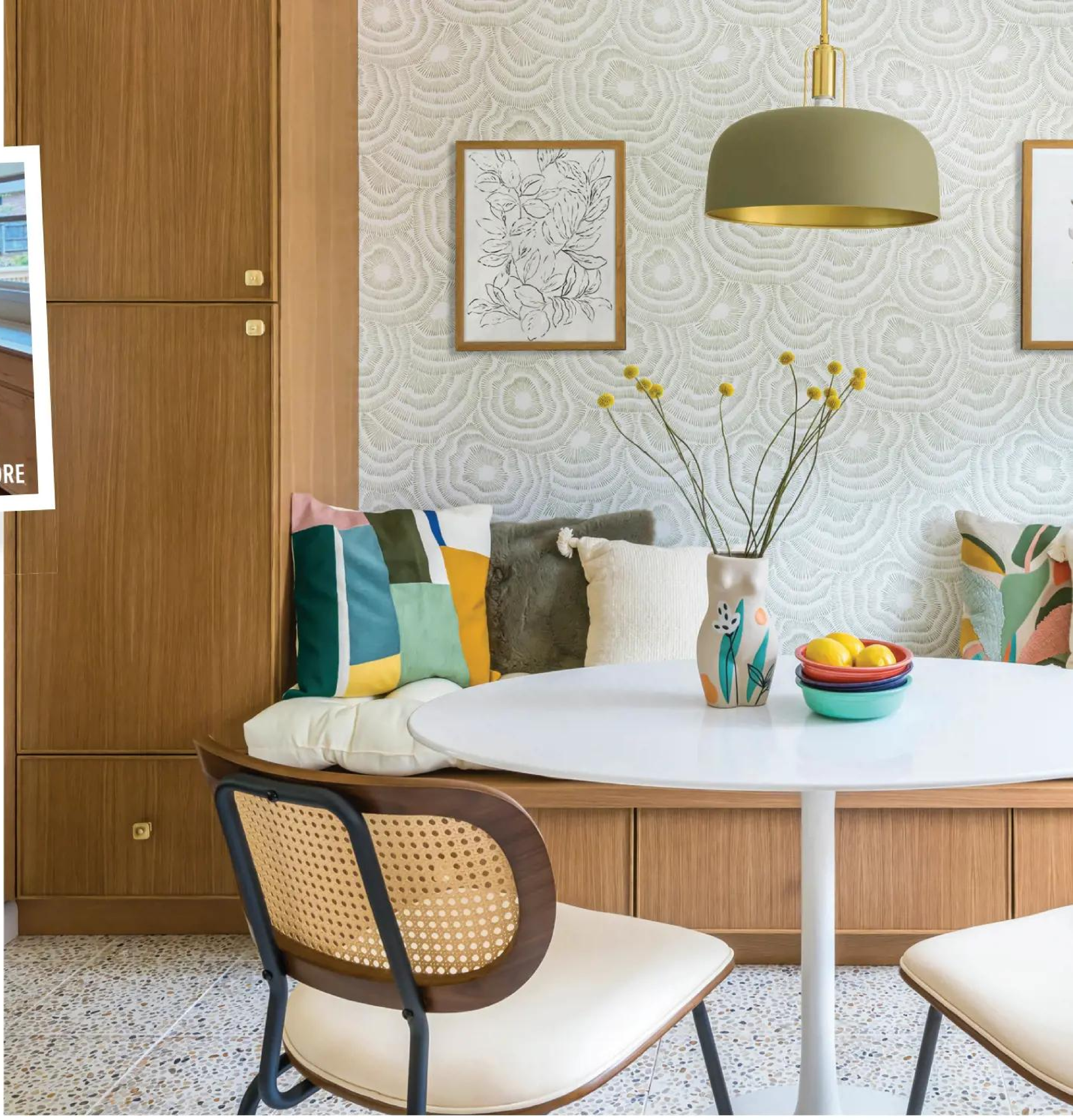
Whimsical wallpaper adds a touch of contemporary style to the Mid Mod infused style of the breakfast nook. Large cabinets throughout the space provide excellent storage options. Whitney made sure to include these functional considerations in her reimagining of the kitchen and dining space. “We maximized storage capacity by removing the dining room wall which enlarged the overall footprint of the kitchen itself and allowed us to utilize dual sided storage at the peninsula,” she says. “We also upgraded the interiors of the cabinets with custom organizational accessories such as cutlery dividers, spice tiers, and a magic corner storage pullout.”



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DESIGN YOUR OWN NOOK

Cute, cozy and effortlessly functional, breakfast nooks are a great addition to any kitchen and dining area for added entertaining and relaxed eating options. Designer Whitney Jones shares her top tips for designing a breakfast nook for your home.

- **Think playful.** When selecting seating options for your nook, don't settle for cookie-cutter or bland. Instead, choose something that is comfortable but also fun to create and with an inviting feel. "You want to invite guests to sit and share," Whitney says.
- **Just Right.** Picking out the right table is another important element in your nook design. "Choosing a mid-sized table that's not too large, but just large enough for users to perch and stay for short periods of time keeps the arrangement cozy," says Whitney.
- **Fun Fixtures.** Go for lighting that sets your nook apart from the rest of the space while adding character and flair. "Installing interesting lighting anchors the arrangement and sets the tone for supporting decor, drawing guests to the center of a space to create an intimate experience," Whitney says.
- **Retro Rotation.** To create a personalized, one-of-a-kind feel select accent pieces that express your style – and can be changed out for different seasons, holidays or just because. "Don't be afraid of fun and funky accents," Whitney says. "Think art, table décor, place settings, and pillows."

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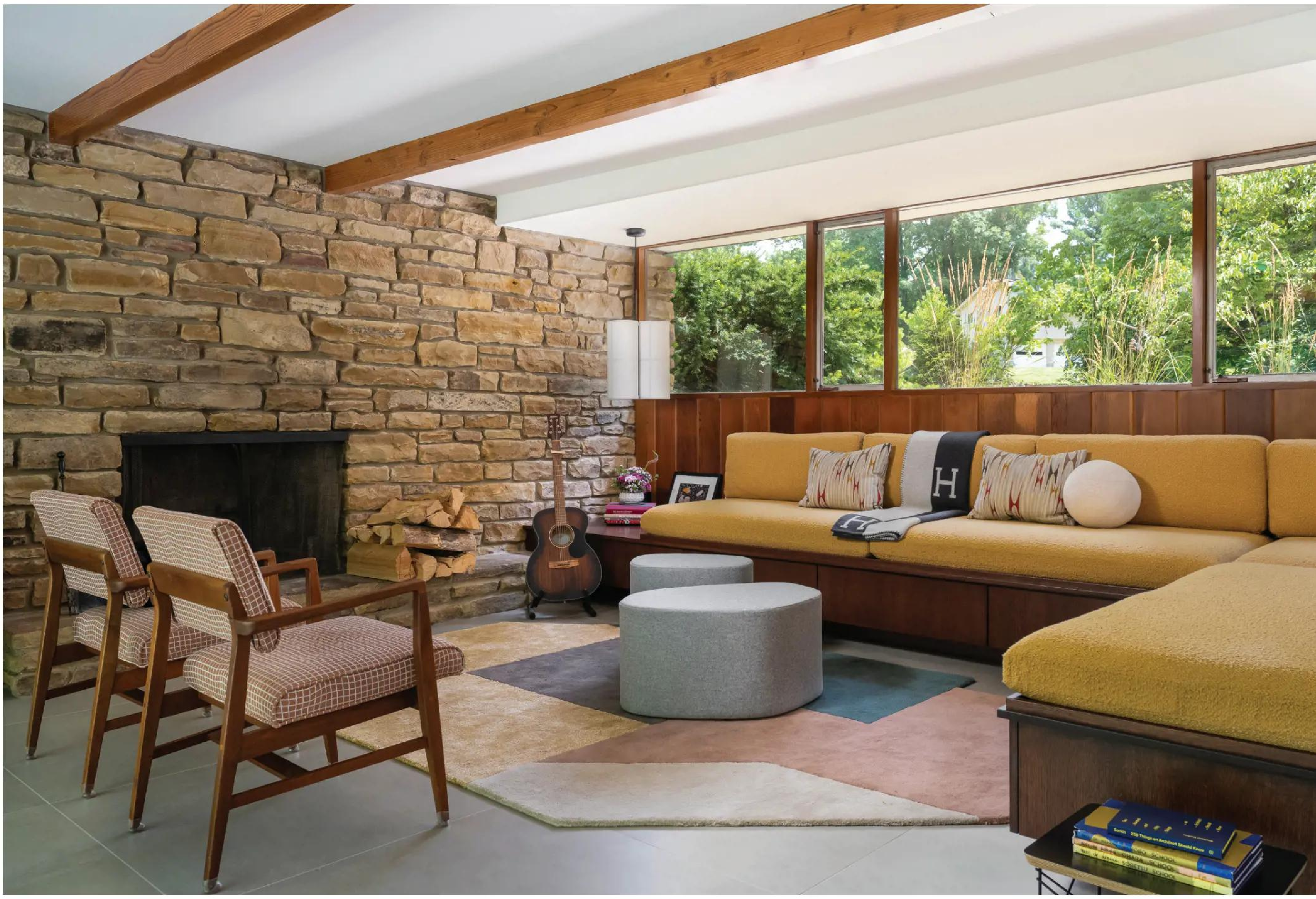
CALIFORNIA DREAMIN’

A Midcentury Modern Home with Golden State Details Comes Back to Life in the Midwest.

By **Michelle Mastro** • Photography by **Sarah Shields** • Styling by **3 Hill Designs**

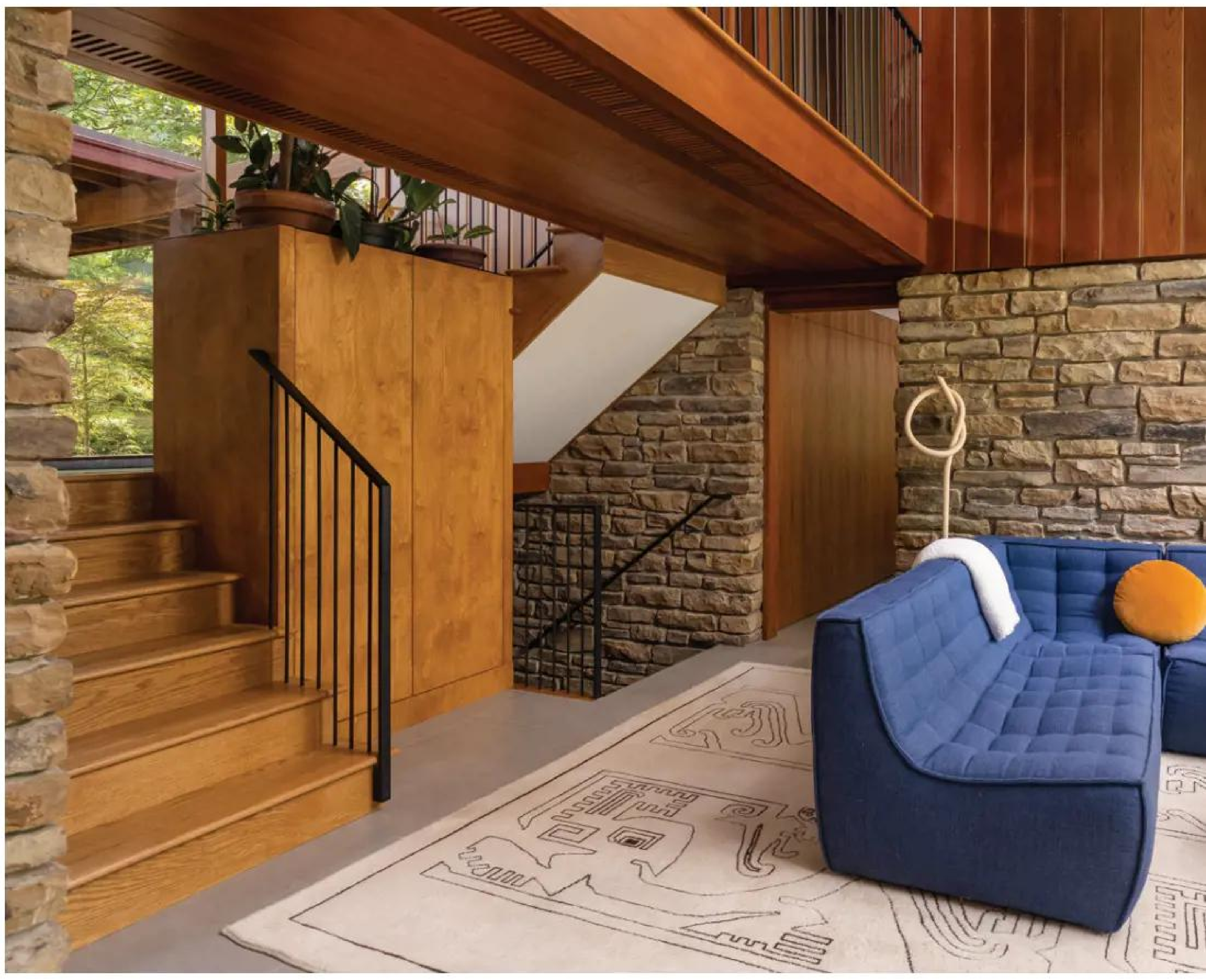
The newly designed back patio features a one-of-a-kind firepit area, while a sunken bench seating brings the indoors outside with nods to a key 1960s MCM design feature, the conversation pit.



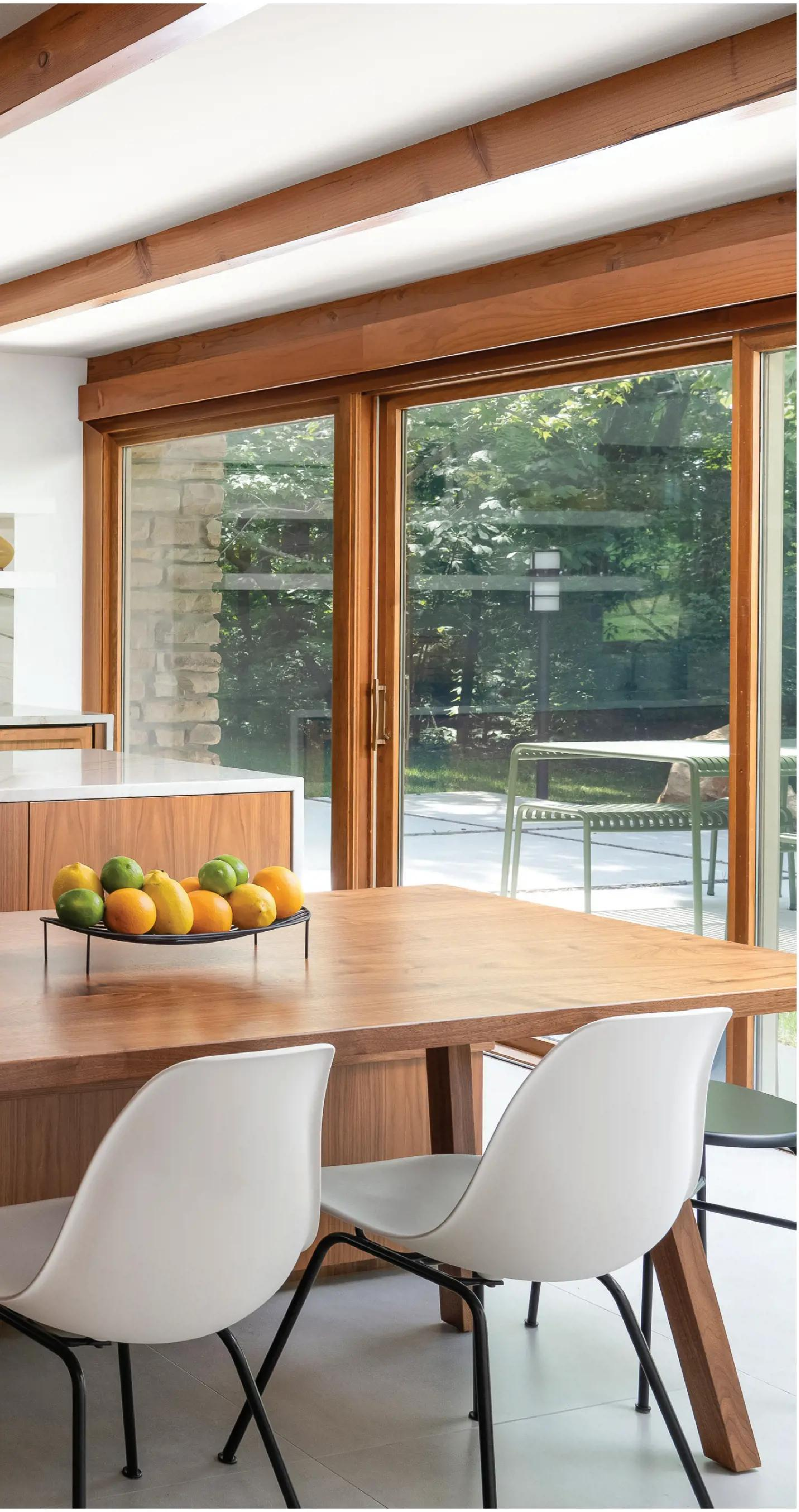
MIDCENTURY MODERN STYLE ADAPTS to its location. Palm Springs mid-mod homes are adorned in dazzling breezeblock to disperse desert air, Washington state MCM houses are replete with walls of soaring glass to better see the evergreens, and out in the Midwest, MCM often leans into practical brick, perfect protection from the area's freezing winters and uncomfortably humid summers. But this typical Midwest material doesn't figure much into a Bloomington, Indiana home. Instead, the house is covered in stunning California redwood, a testament to the California transplants who originally built the house.

top: While the wood paneling is California redwood, the fireplace stonework is river rock hailing from Brown County, Indiana. The custom sectional was made in yellow boucle material to accent the stone and was designed by the homeowners. Chairs made to look like a Hans J. Wegner creation were sourced from Indiana vintage shops.

opposite: The light fixtures hanging by the catwalk may be new but they are modern replicas of the original paper lanterns that once hung there. The graphic black-and-white abstract-print rug was handed down from the original owners of the home, and it has sat in this spot in the home for 60 years. The knotted wood sculpture behind the blue couch is by California artist, Katie Gong.



above: The cabinet and built-in planter box beside the catwalk had to be remade to fit contemporary building codes, as the other designs had the cabinet and planter too low to the floor. The potted plants had to be moved for the span of the renovation to protect them but were put back in place once finished. The edge detail on the underside of the catwalk may look like trim, but it's actually a vent system for the radiant floor heating.



The kitchen bench and table were made from the dead walnut trees that had to be removed. The new owners wanted to keep the wood and reuse it somehow to honor the fact that the original owners had planted the trees 60 years ago.

GOLDEN STATE

"We salvaged the original stone, glass, and all the interior and exterior redwood, which our team meticulously refinished and preserved," says Loren Wood, builder and owner of Loren Wood Builders. "The new homeowners wanted to maintain the historical integrity of the house. They have a strong preservationist take on home design."

The new homeowners, a young couple from Berkely, California purchased the house in 2021. Though they had never lived in a MCM house before, they were drawn to the abode's clean lines, geometric shapes, inclusion of natural light, and innovative materials, especially the wood paneling both inside and outside the house made from Californian redwood. All it took was a 30-minute FaceTime tour, and the couple was ready to submit an offer. "This house had a lot of character for the Midwest," the wife explains. "Even over FaceTime, you could tell there was so much detail and care put into the home."

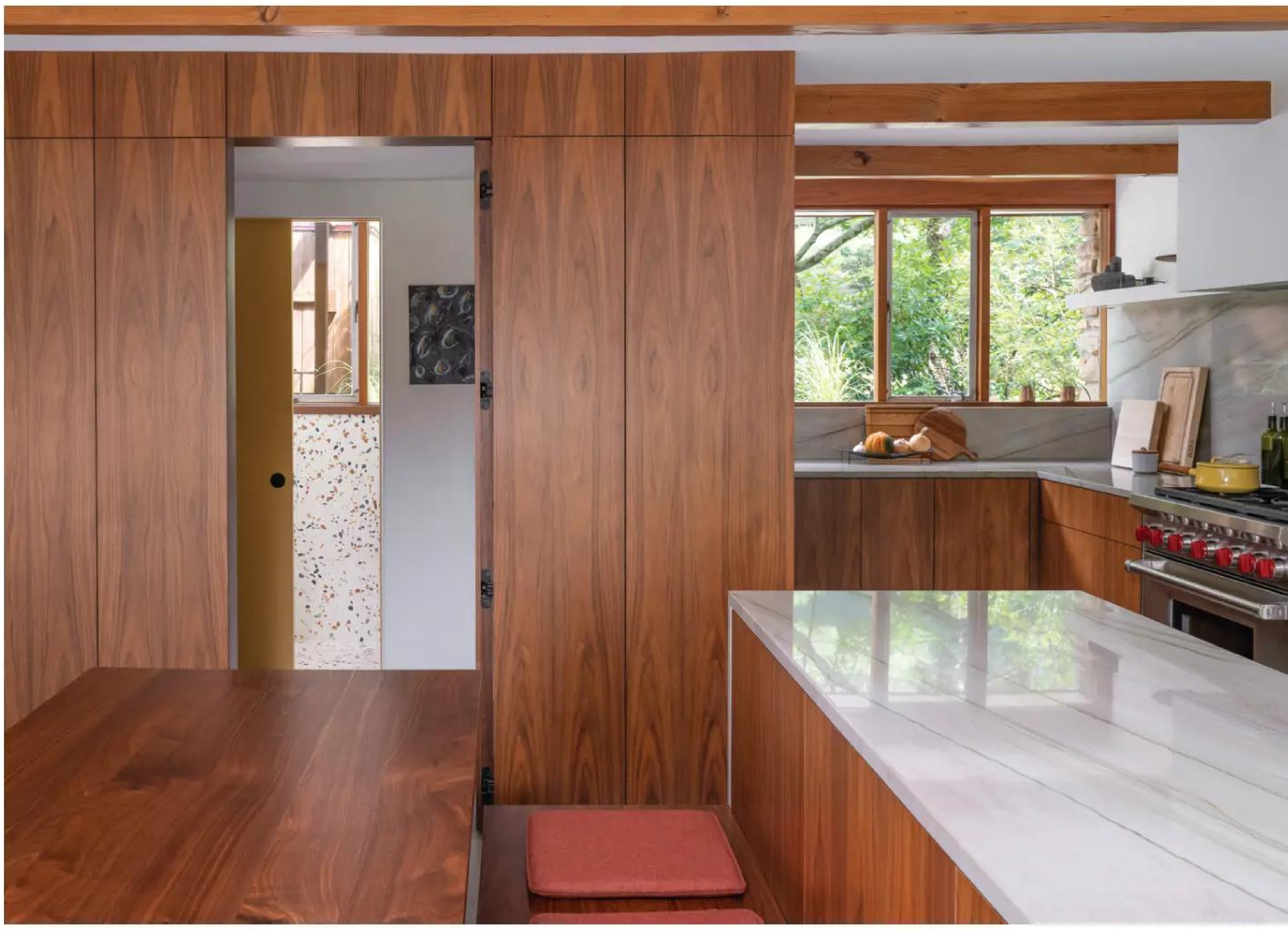
Coincidentally, the home's original owners were also transplants from California to Indiana. Built in 1960 by the Martin family from Santa Monica, the house was designed using plans from a 1959 Ladies' Home Journal issue, says Loren. The designs came from a celebrated Louisville architect of that era, Jasper Ward, known for his commercial and public buildings.

The Bloomington house remained in the Martin family until 2018, then it was sold to another family who couldn't keep up with the massive amount of work the property required, and then the latest owners scooped it up in 2021. Though somewhat of an aging beauty, the house was left untouched since it was built.

BURIED TREASURE

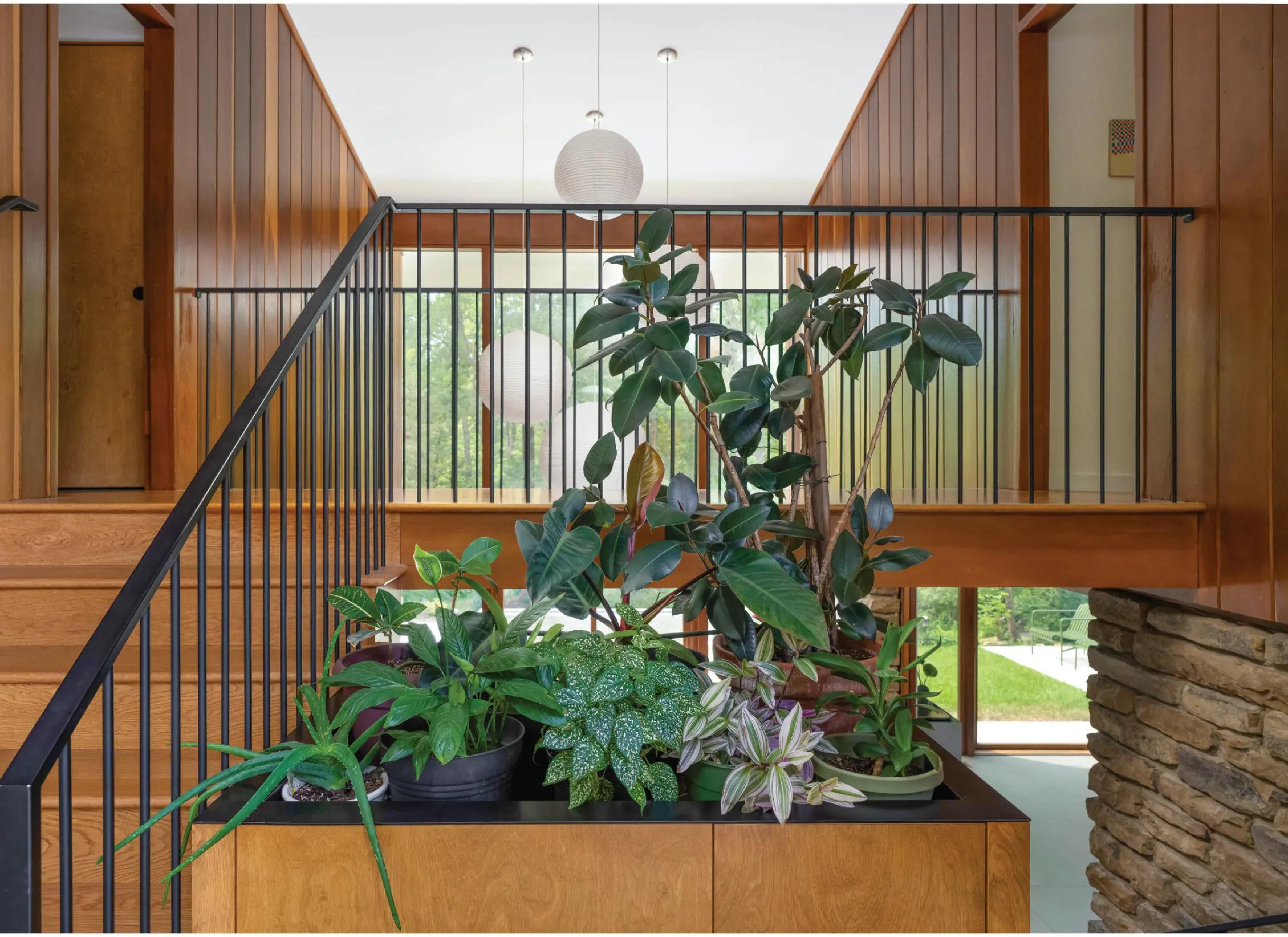
The new homeowners wanted to preserve the home's history and reached out to Loren for his reputation of pulling off renovations of historical and architecturally significant homes. "We really had to gut the house down to the studs," Loren says. "But we preserved all the original millwork, which included the redwood interior and exterior." Some of the redwood pieces on the staircase leading to the catwalk, and parts of the catwalk itself, did need to be replaced. Luckily, Loren's team found additional pieces of the material carefully hidden away in the home's basement. The stairway's central cabinet and planter also had to be remade to keep the structure up to the current building codes because they had been built too low to the floor.

Other updates were necessary. Loren's team updated the home's plumbing, aging mechanicals—such as bad wiring—and insulation. "There was no forced air anywhere in the house, for example," he says. "The house relied on radiant floor heat, and there was no air conditioning in the house that could help dehumidify it during the summer." This had to be added not only for the family's comfort but to help the redwood panels stand inside the home for another 60 years.



above: A walnut wood door was added to the wall of walnut paneling to cleverly conceal the laundry room and adjacent powder room.

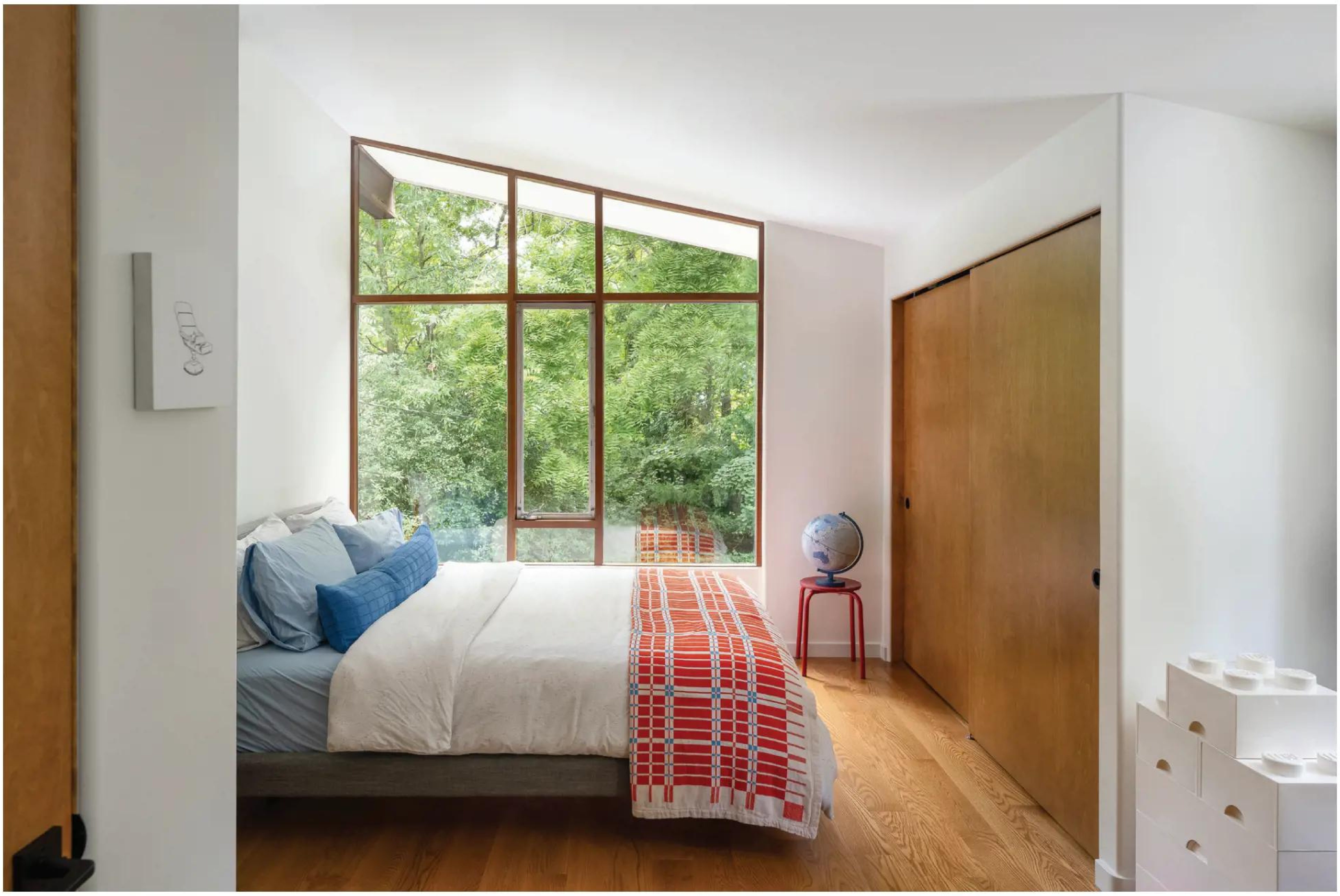
opposite: The home's second story catwalk connects the home's two wings and is mostly all original redwood paneling. Some had to be replaced by additional pieces discovered in the home's basement. However, the original railing had warped and needed replacement.



HEART OF THE HOME

But of all the updates, the new owners identified the kitchen as a top priority. The kitchen, laundry room, and powder room were all one open room, says the wife. “I could see the toilet from the stove. I knew that had to change,” she says. However, everything had to stay put because the space was constructed on a concrete slab, and the plumbing was thus set in stone, making it impossible to relocate key water features without creating exorbitant costs.

The solution to concealing all the visual clutter came in the form of a hidden door in the kitchen. A new walnut wood door provides visual separation from the laundry room and bathroom, without compromising the space’s overall structure and blending seamlessly with the existing walnut panels. In the kitchen, the team also added in a quartz backsplash and floating shelves to add more visual interest and update the kitchen for contemporary living.



top: The homeowners' art collection includes a colorful piece by Bay Area artists Kelly Tunstall and Ferris Plock. The mostly sunny yellow artwork serves as a brilliant pop of color against the mainly white backdrop and windows looking out onto the verdant woods surrounding the home.
above: Paned windows frame a leafy perspective of the heavily wooded property of the house.

WOODLAND REVERIE

But the home doesn't just boast California woods. The kitchen's dining table is constructed of walnut trees sourced from just beyond the kitchen's sweeping glass doors. "The walnut came from dead trees that were on the property," the wife explains. "They were leaning over the house and might one day be in danger of falling down, so we had the wood milled and kiln-dried to make furniture for the home." Ever the preservationists, the couple wanted to save the wood and reuse it where they could because the trees had been planted by the original owners.

ALL IT TOOK WAS A 30-MINUTE FACETIME TOUR, AND THE COUPLE WAS READY TO SUBMIT AN OFFER. "THIS HOUSE HAD A LOT OF CHARACTER FOR THE MIDWEST," THE WIFE EXPLAINS. "EVEN OVER FACETIME, YOU COULD TELL THERE WAS SO MUCH DETAIL AND CARE PUT INTO THE HOME."

"We love our little forest," the wife says. The house itself is somewhat set back from the street and hidden by trees, while the backyard feels like a private refuge tucked away even more. The back patio features a uniquely designed firepit area complete with a sunken bench further promoting the outdoor space's privacy. "It's part of why we fell in love with the house's location," says the wife. "We liked the feeling of living surrounded by woods."

SEE RESOURCES, PAGE 88

A BETTER BUILD

Loren Wood shares his tips for finding the right builder to renovate a MCM home.

- **Interview Builders.** Finding the right builder is like finding the right employee for a job. Afterall, you are hiring them to complete one of the most important design jobs there could be: building or renovating a dream home. "Don't be afraid to ask about their portfolios, or if they have a history of rehabbing and renovating this older type of home style," says Loren.

- **Ask for Recs.** One of the ways to determine if a builder is right for your project is to inquire into their customer feedback. "Generally, great builders will have customers able to vouch for their work," Loren says. "So, check out their website and even ask them for recommendations."

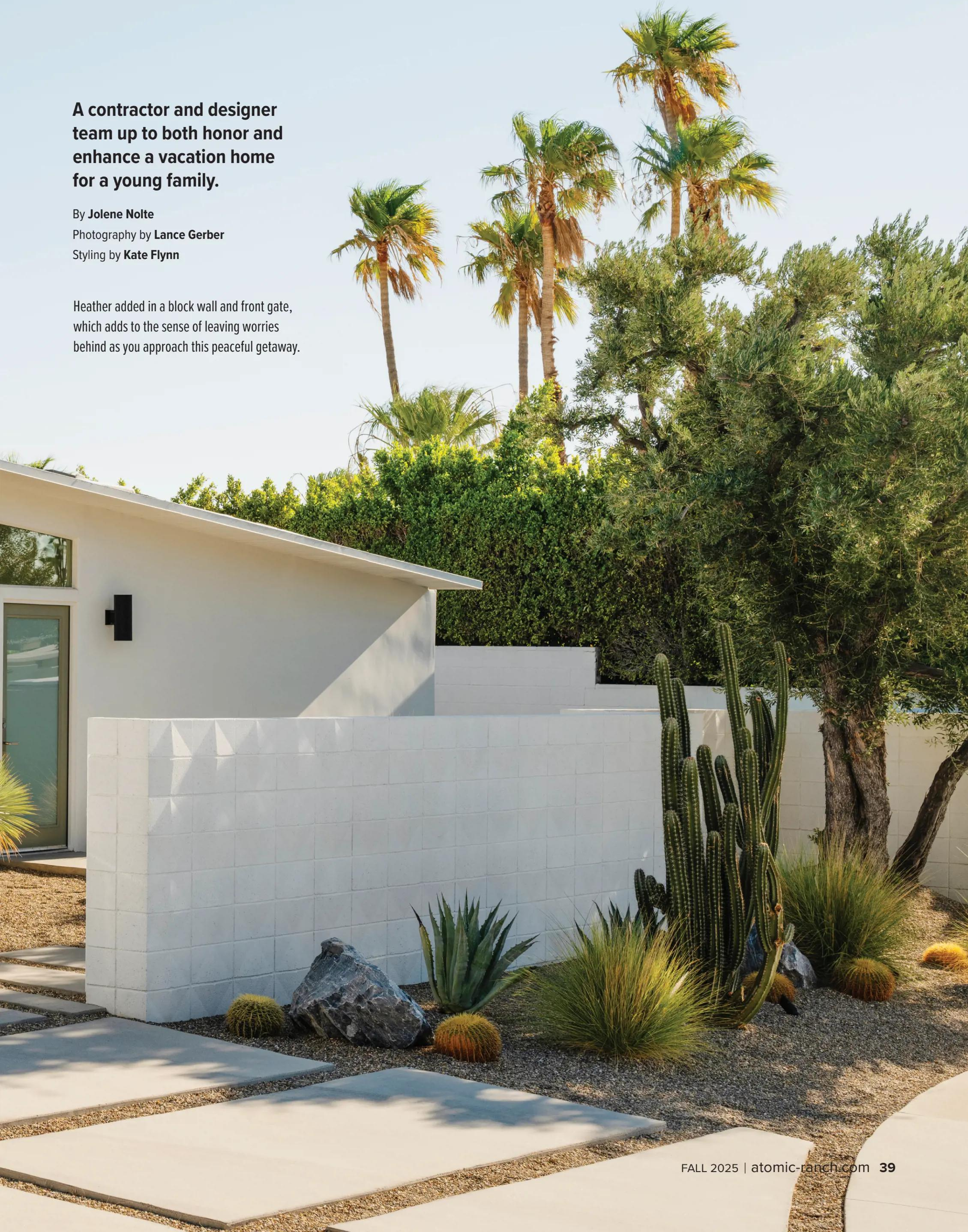
- **See Their Work.** Finally, see the builder's prior work. "Don't be afraid to ask to see the other homes they've completed. In all likelihood, they will be happy to connect you with happy customers who want to show off their house." While visiting the home, really look at the level of detail yourself, he says. "That's where you'll see the amount of attention a builder puts into their work."

top: The backside of the house boasts a flight of stairs leading to a private wooded area on the property.
above: The home's exterior is all original redwood paneling. Loren wood carefully removed the wood paneling, refinished, and preserved the pieces one by one.

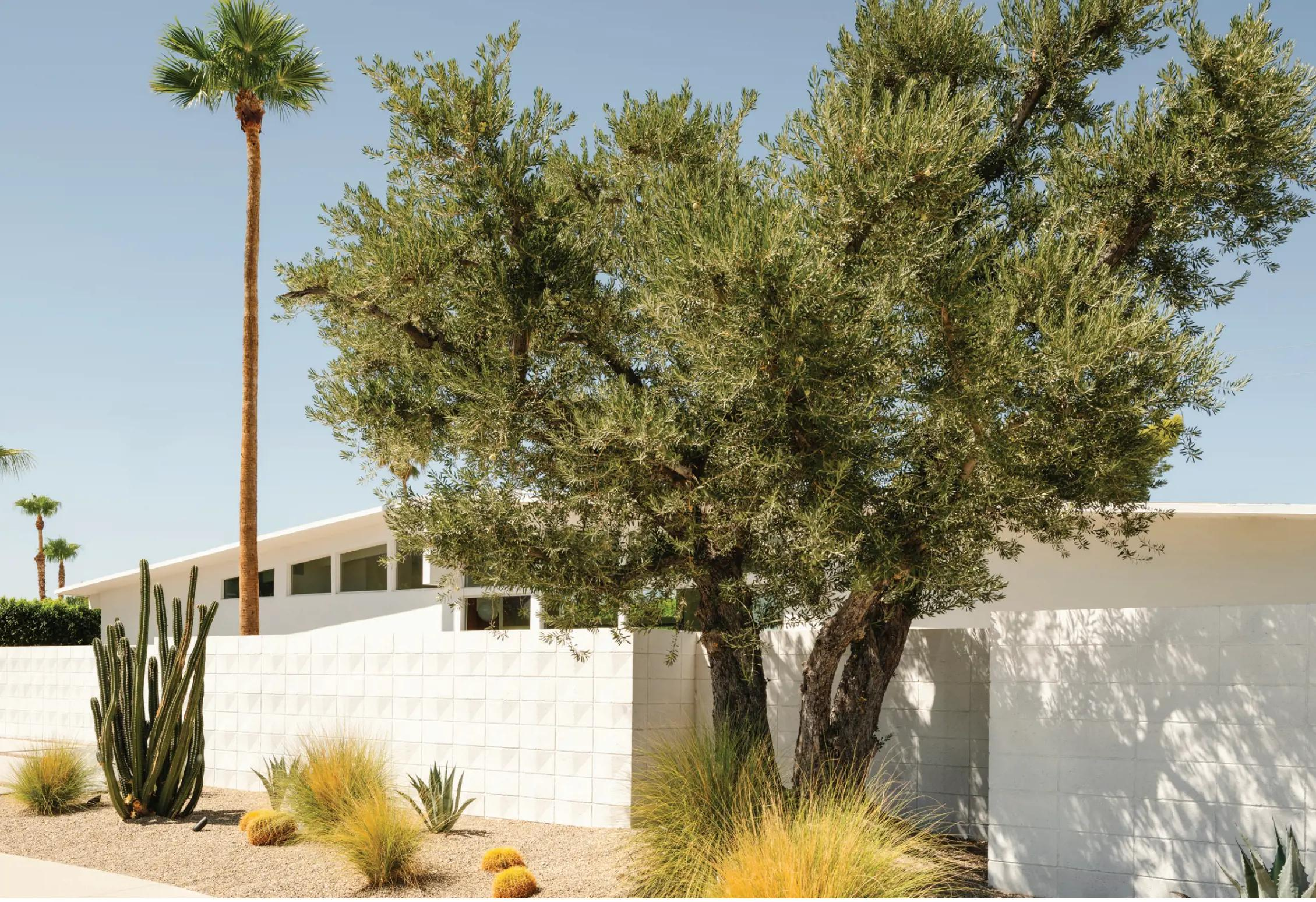
REMASTERING
A KRISEL

A contractor and designer team up to both honor and enhance a vacation home for a young family.

By **Jolene Nolte**
Photography by **Lance Gerber**
Styling by **Kate Flynn**



Heather added in a block wall and front gate, which adds to the sense of leaving worries behind as you approach this peaceful getaway.



Maggie Lewis, co-founder and principal at Dama Interiors, refers to the front yard cactus garden as a form of art that employs negative space. It creates the effect of "really treating cacti like a sculpture, and gives an artful experience to the front, maintaining a quiet serenity versus a bigger and lusher setting."

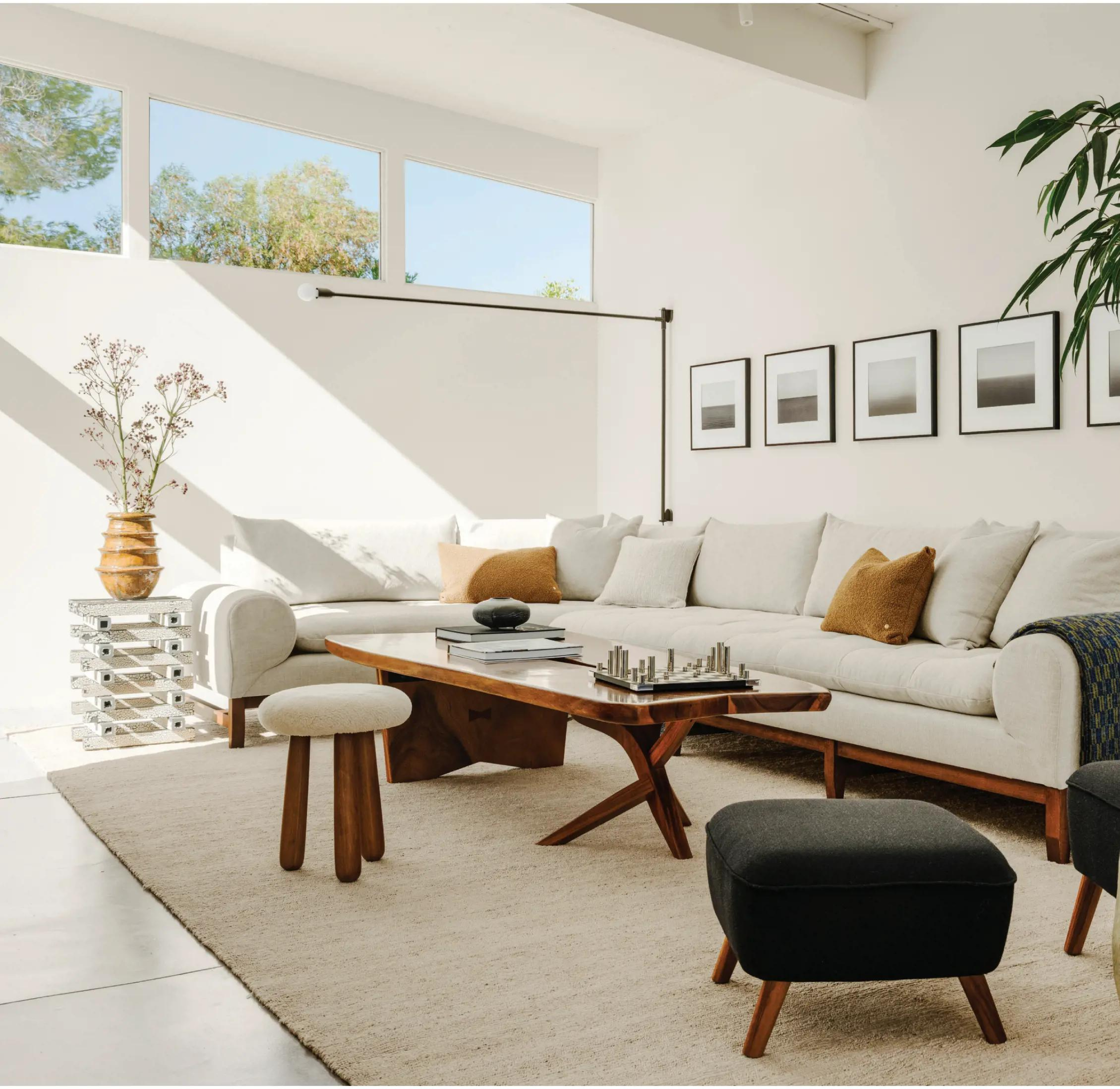
WHEN YOU THINK OF a mid-century Palm Springs getaway, you probably imagine a home with bright pops of turquoise, yellow and orange with bubble lamps, lots of chrome and funky wall art. When interior designer Heather Cohen and her husband Jordan were looking for a Palm Springs getaway for their growing family, they opted for a different—but still deeply mid-century inspired—approach that causes everyone's shoulders to drop as soon as they walk up the front entrance.

A DREAM TEAM

When Heather and Jordan bought their 1958 Krisel home in the Racquet Club Estates neighborhood of Palm Springs, one of their first moves was to reach out to Steven Shields of Shields Residential for expertise from someone who knows and respects Palm Springs Mid Century Modern architecture.

Steven says of his architectural/contractor approach, "We will always think of it as 'remastering.' We use the technology available today that architects and builders like Krisel certainly would have used had they been available in the 50s."

The pool and view to the mountains makes this a perfect getaway space for a young family.



above: The sofa is upholstered in Perennials Fabrics in order to stand up to the daily wear and tear of young family life. The minimalist color scheme allows the play of light and shadow to take centerstage, while the sandy tones add warmth and echo the desert outside.

opposite: The mesh sculpture evokes and is inspired by the work of Ruth Asawa. By living artist D'Lisa Creager, the piece was custom made for Heather's home, and so fits the proportions of the space perfectly.

Heather, in her own approach as a co-founder and prinicpal interior designer at Dama Interiors, had a similar vision when it came to her 1958 Krisel. "We really loved that it had this historical mid-century core; I really didn't want to stray away from that too much and honor mid-century history."

In fact, Shields Residential and Dama Interiors were such a compatible team that they are now collaborators beyond this project. Steven Shields comments that the collaboration between the two is one of the things he's most proud of about the project. "The work with Heather was exteremly easy and synergistic," he says.

ARCHITECTURAL CHANGES

In addition to knowledge and respect of MCM architecture, one of the other facets of knowledge Steven brought to the table was knowledge of how city permits work. They were able to turn the garage into a casita, which would not have been possible previously since most municipalities require covered parking. “However, with the housing crisis right now, that has been overriden,” Steven says, and so they seized the opportunity to transform the garage into a casita.

Other architectural changes involved moving the kitchen to a better location within the house, pushing out the living room, and adding what Steven calls “missing clerestories.” He elaborates, “Krisel built tract homes, so he didn’t have the opportunity to select lots based on the best views.” Had Krisel had that opportunity, he surely would not have been opposed to strengthening the indoor-outdoor connection and available views with clerestory windows.

RAY PRICE

above, left: The cane-back chairs echo the sandy desert colors that surround the home, while the head sculpture by Common Body keeps the minimalist color scheme from feeling stark by adding a touch of personality.

above, right: The art by Jury Smith adds color and a personal touch without overtaking the space. Concrete floors are a practical choice, particularly for a dining room/entryway, while the walnut closet door contributes a counterbalance through it warm, organic tones.

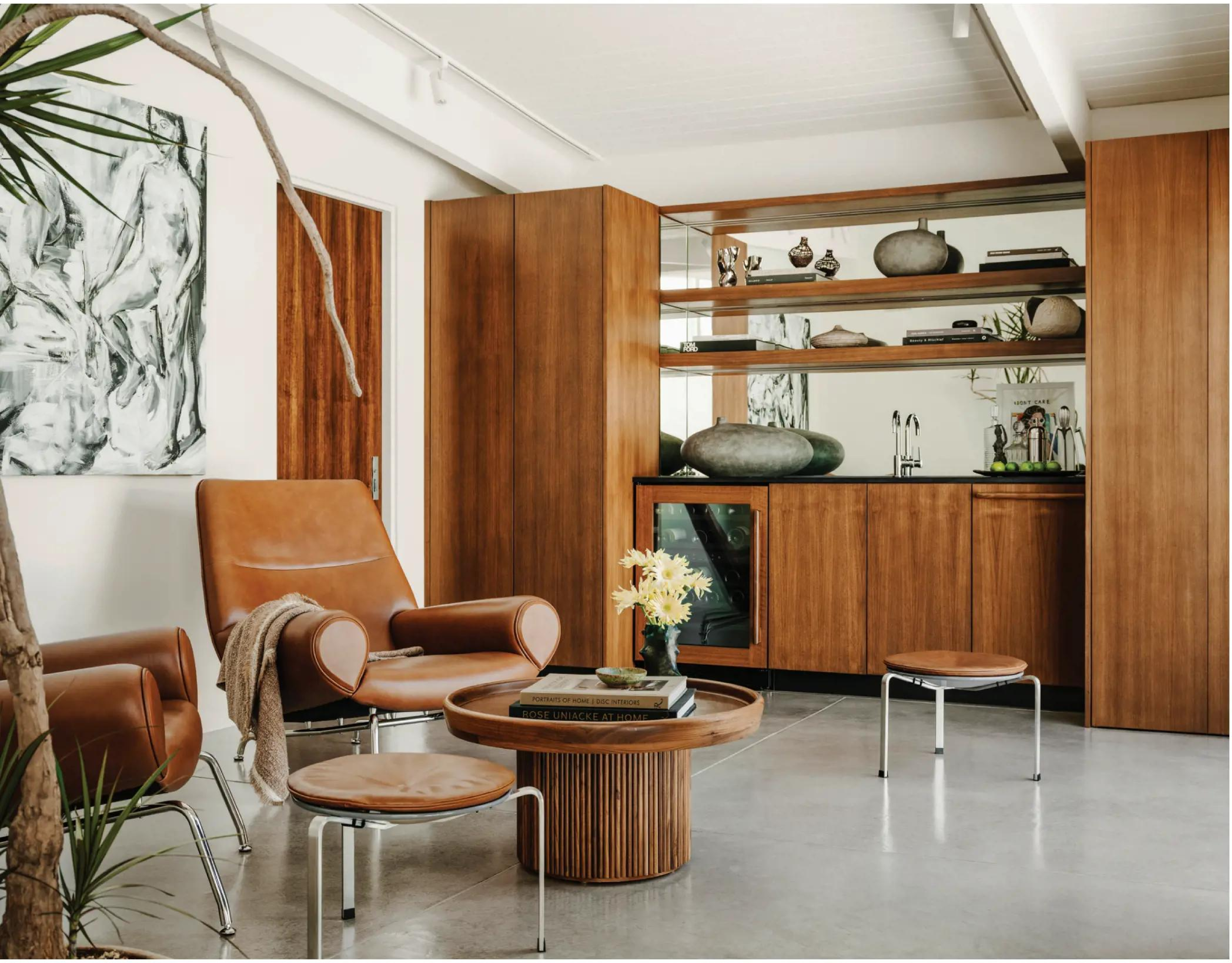
opposite: Here, the inside and outside are in conversation with floor to ceiling windows allowing a view outside while sitting at the dining room table.

> “IT JUST SHOWS THE VALUE OF A GOOD DESIGNER AND GOOD CONTRACTOR FOR HISTORIC HOMES. THE WALLS HAVE THEIR SECRETS.”
> —MAGGIE LEWIS, DAMA INTERIORS

Where the kitchen is now used to be a breezeway. They discovered that it was floating—there was no foundation underneath! For Heather and Dama Interiors co-founder and principal designer Maggie Lewis, this really underscores the importance of working with someone like Steven who can anticipate and address those problems as well as prevent future ones. Maggie comments, “It just shows the value of a good designer and good contractor for historic homes. The walls have their secrets.”

DESIGN DECISIONS

Heather loves “the constant conversation between inside and out” in mid-century homes, and her vision was guided by looking for opportunities to enhance this connection throughout the 1958 Krisel. One of the ways she achieved this was by removing any barrier between the front and back yard. When you approach the house from the front walkway, before you even enter the house, you can see to the pool in the backyard. This and the added clerestory windows really give the home what Heather calls “a feeling of transparency.”

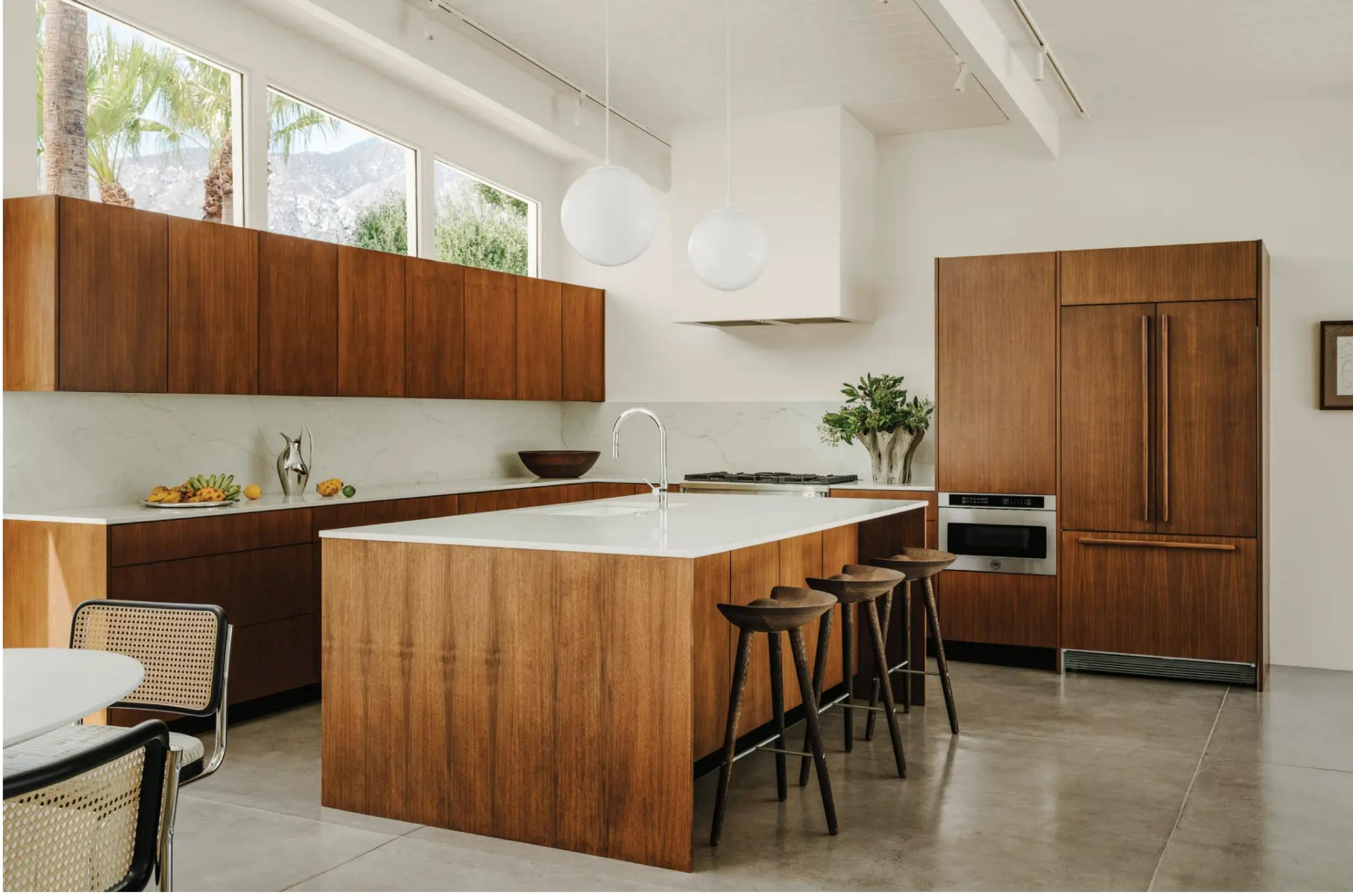


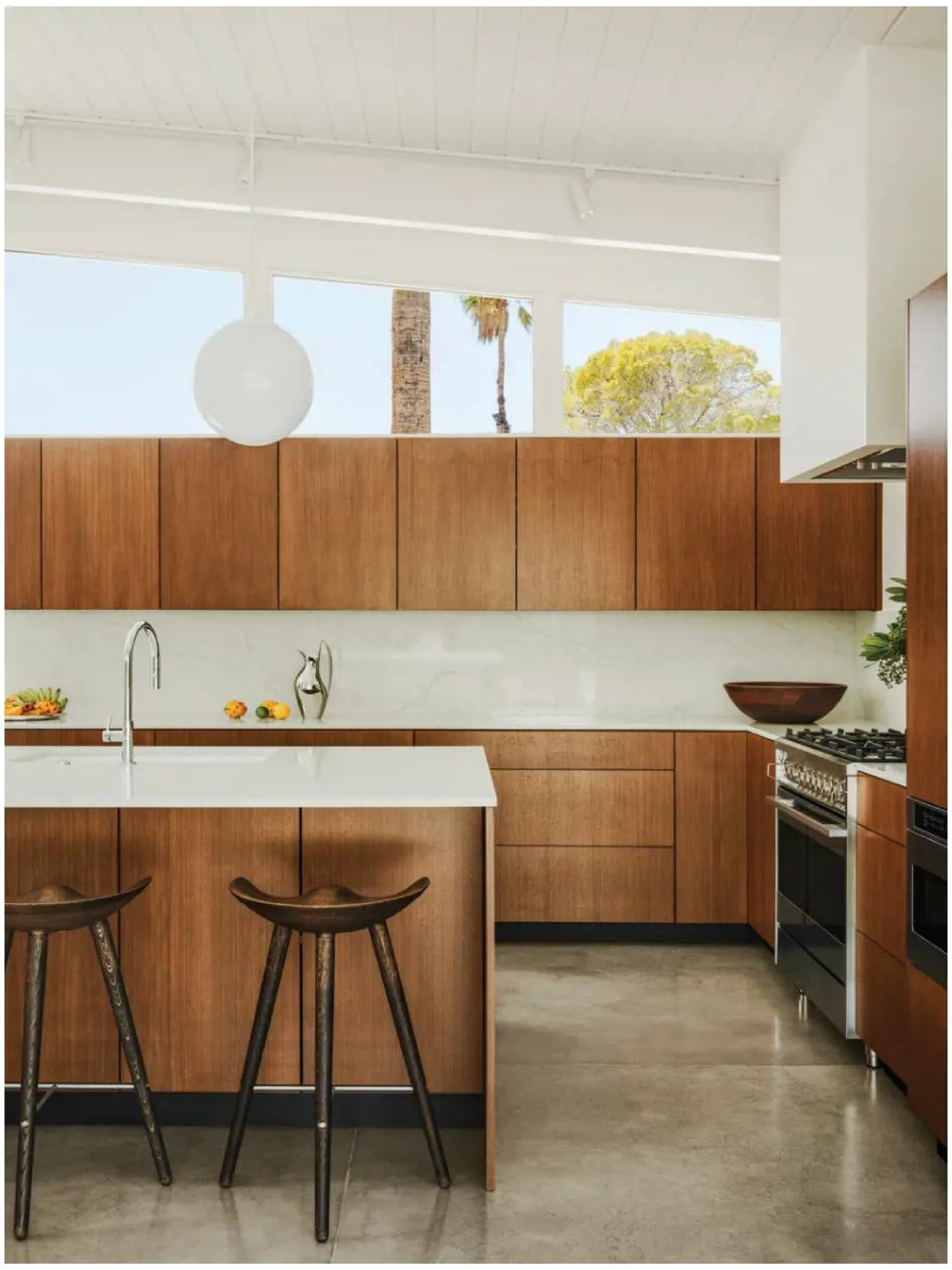
What says vacation home more than a bar? The wine fridge and leather armchairs invite relaxation while the art ties the room together with a personal touch.

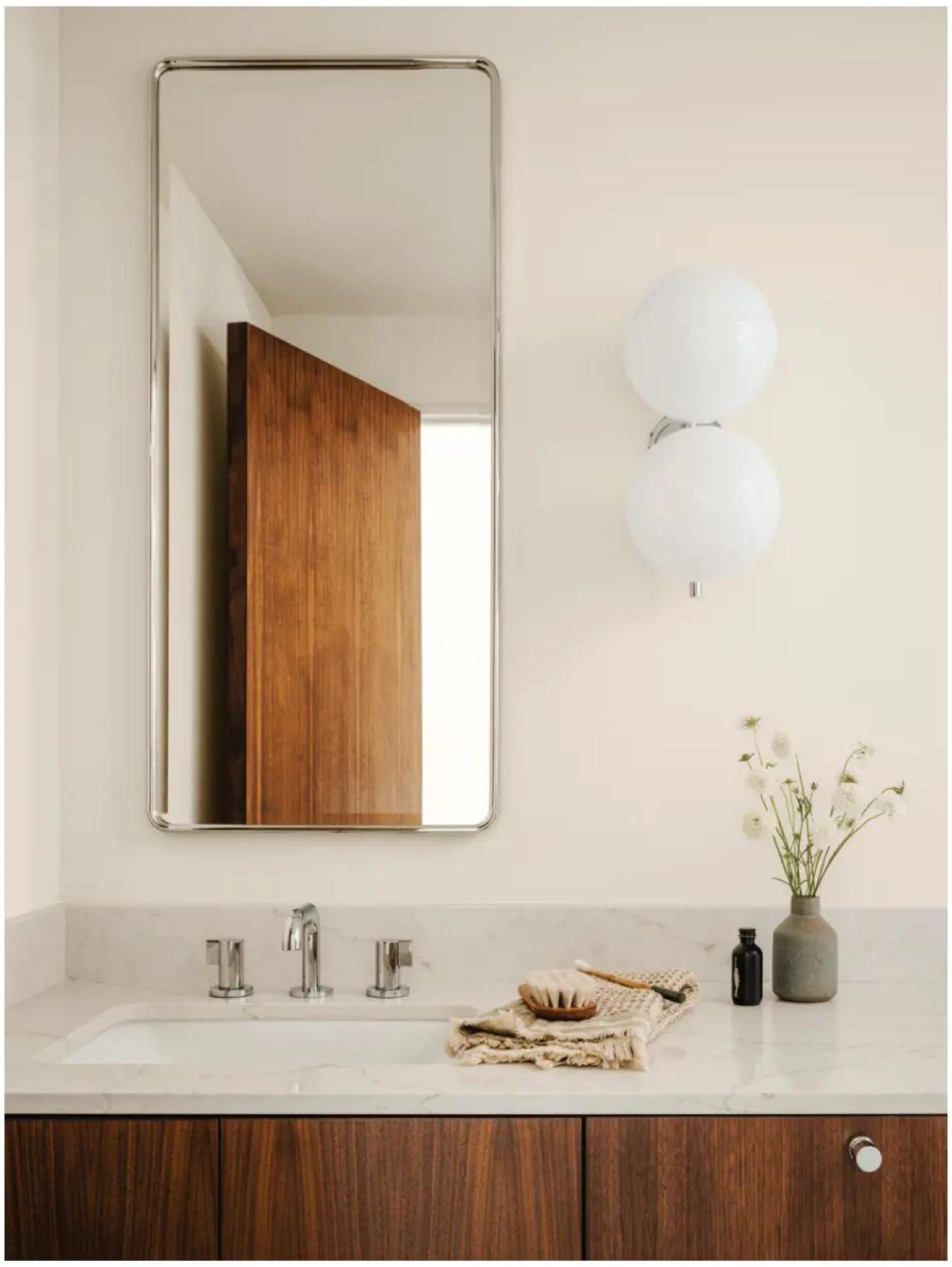
FAMILY FRIENDLY **MCM**

While this renovated 1958 Krisel feels sophisticated, it is also very intentionally family friendly. With two dogs and two children under three, durability and performance were high priorities. So, how do you make an MCM home both elegant and family friendly? Heather and Maggie share their tips.

- **Concrete floors.** Especially with pets, concrete floors fit in the mid century vernacular and can stand up to wear and tear. You can warm up specific zones with area rugs, but this will leave the majority of the house stain- and paw-resistant.
- **Performance fabrics.** You can still have a custom sofa, but upholster it in a fabric that will stand the test of time with the inevitable spills and spit ups. Perennials Fabrics is a great place to look for fantastic fabrics that are made to resist mold, mildew and can be washed and bleached for easy maintenance without sacrificing quality design.
- **Rounded edges.** Kids have a way of finding hard corners, banging heads or knees into table edges. Opt for furniture pieces with rounded edges. If you can't find any, take cues from Heather, and have a piece custom built for your space's needs.
- **Don't be too precious.** Maggie says that in every Dama Interiors project, including this one, it's "minimal and clean, but there's not a preciousness to it." Maybe this isn't the season in life for a Noguchi coffee table that kids could shatter. But a gorgeous organic edged coffee table is no less elegant. Just because you keep family friendliness in mind doesn't mean you have to sacrifice style.







top: The kitchen in its new location can occupy more space and enjoy views to the mountains thanks to the newly added clerestory windows. All that natural light bouncing off the white ceiling and surfaces adds warmth to the space as does the walnut cabinetry.

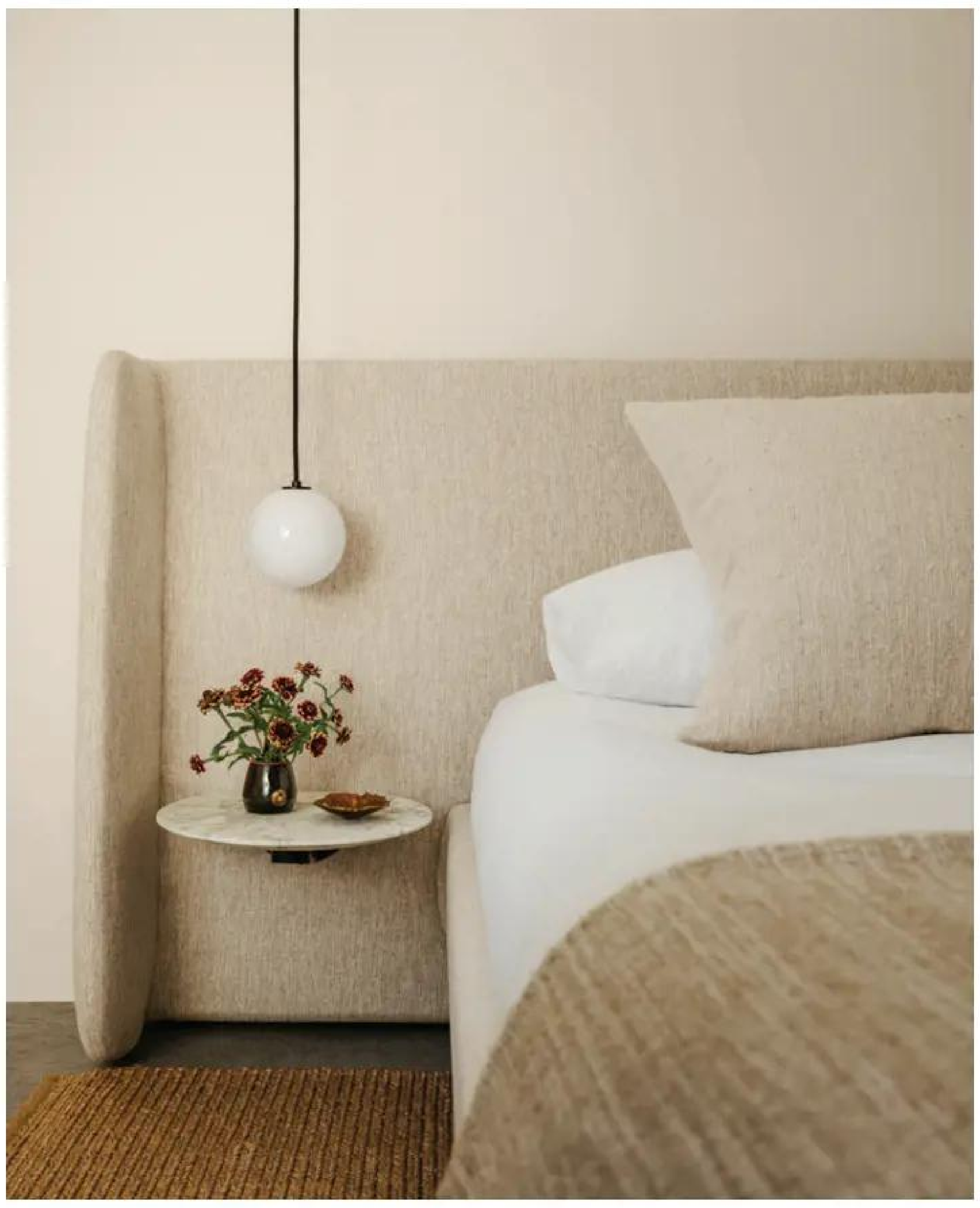
above, left: Heather loves the Leo Pendant globe lighting for the way it evokes mid-century style with its minimalist profile.

above, right: Simple without being stark, the bathroom has a spa-like feel thanks to the warm walnut door and cabinetry as well as the minimalism of the decor.

Another goal was to create, in Heather's words, a "minimalist, understated luxury feel" while also "not wanting it to feel cold." Heather drew inspiration from classic MCM and Bauhaus rather than the futuristic MCM stream. Many design decisions were guided by the question, "How do I keep the warmth while keeping it quiet?" Heather also wanted to pull in desert tones. As a result, she used lots of walnut to counteract the potential starkness of the concrete floors. The interior doors, closets and cabinetry are all walnut. They painted the ceilings white to enhance the open, airy feel of the home and allow the natural light to really fill the space.

Part of achieving the warmth and personal touch Heather wanted came through art. Art, as well as renovating a mid-century home, can be an expensive endeavor. To make it more achievable, Heather worked with artists for custom pieces. The advantage, in addition to being less expensive than the famous originals of MCM artists, is that it can also be made to suit the space.

left: Wall art enhances this bedroom where everything feels thoughtfully chosen to create a functional and relaxing retreat space.
below, left: Easy outdoor access via a sliding glass door enhances the indoor-outdoor connection, contributing to the luxurious, airy, vacation feel of the home.
above, right: The bedroom feels like a modern retreat with its soothing colors and clean lines balanced by the globe pendant light and floating circular nightstand.



“WE WILL ALWAYS THINK OF IT AS ‘REMASTERING.’ WE USE THE TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TODAY THAT ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS LIKE KRISEL CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE USED HAD THEY BEEN AVAILABLE IN THE 50S.”
–STEVEN SHIELDS, SHIELDS RESIDENTIAL

The living room extends to the backyard, and the backyard to the living room, almost seamlessly.

The mesh sculpture is a perfect example. It recalls the work of Ruth Asawa but was made by living artist D'Lisa Creager. "It's perfectly proportionate to the space," Heather says. The coffee table is another example of a custom piece that was made to fit "the really long and narrow living room."

The process as well as the end result, were worth it for Heather. "I love being in the space," she says. "It's my home, and it's really wonderful and everyone feels relaxed."

Now that the project is done and the home is serving its purpose as a family vacation home, Heather reflects, "We were really successful at weaving Krisel's original vision into the design. I think we did a good job of not straying too far from the original design but adding our own personal touch."

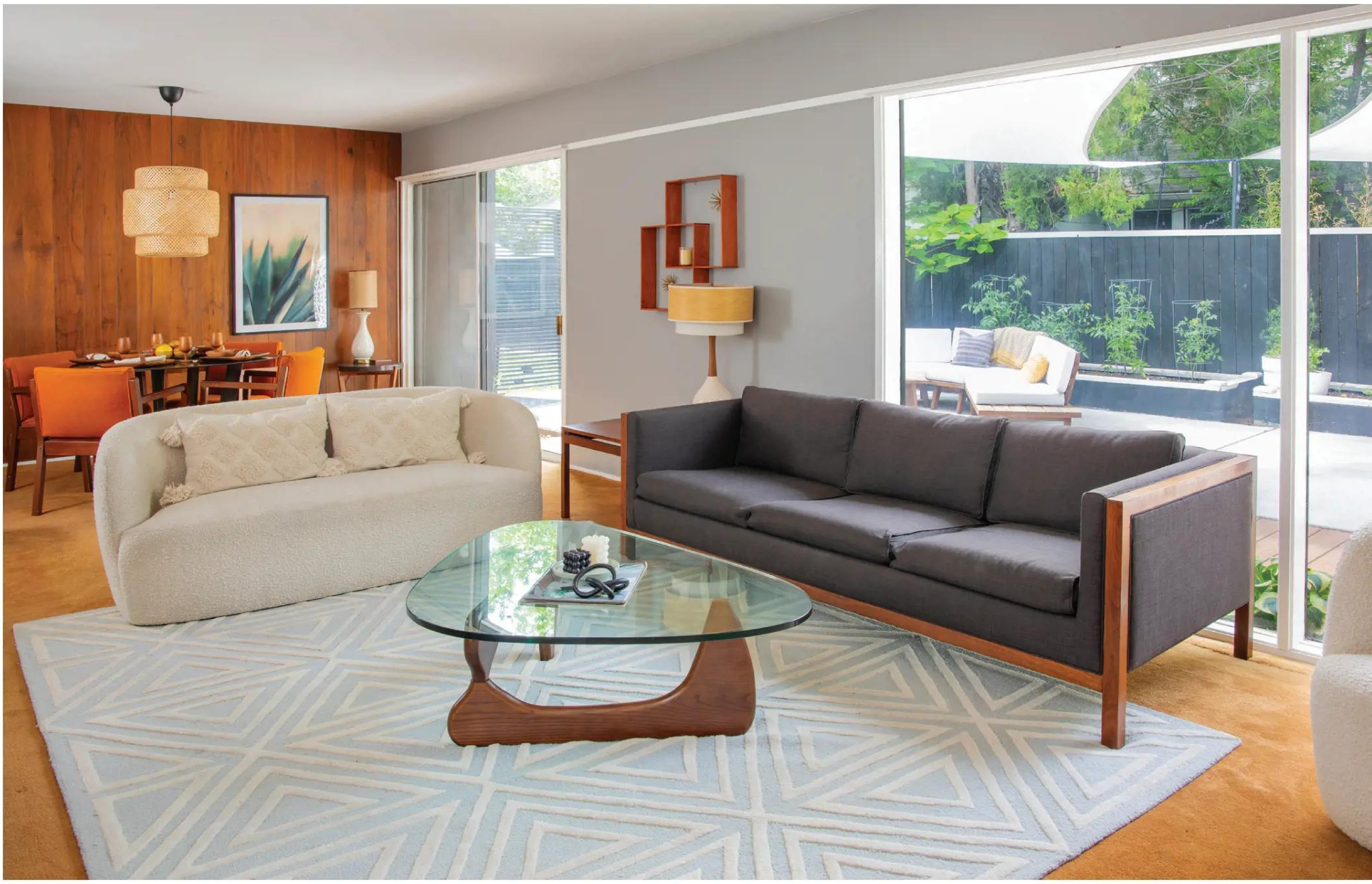
BREATHING NEW LIFE

Designed and owned by Boise architect Vic Hosford, this 1958 home gets a second life with minimal, thoughtful renovations that elevate the home's original character and beauty.

By **Laura Shimko** • Photography by **Bret Gum**

The exterior of the home slowly draws visitors in with its narrow entryway meant to provide a feeling of seclusion and privacy as one approaches. This layered approach is typical in many Mid Mod builds, where the line between public and private spaces is clearly defined, but gives the home a unique feel among many Boise homes. "I knew I never wanted to live in something cookie-cutter," says Kelli. "Even in its worst shape, anyone walking by would say, 'Wow, that house is so neat!' – and it really is; it stands out more than any other in the neighborhood, and maybe even the town."

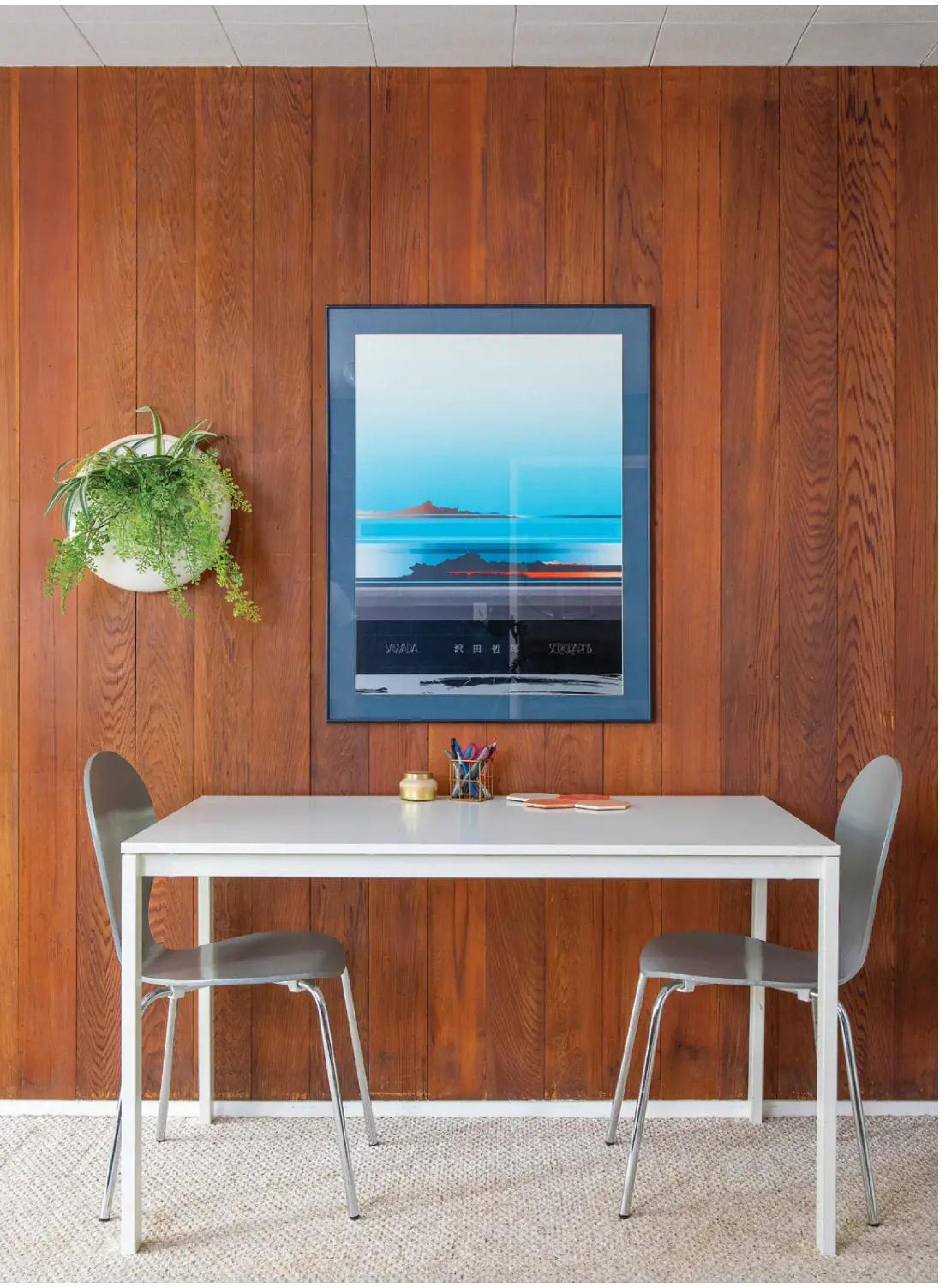
The front porch, shrouded in a broad overhang and surrounded by lush greenery, remains largely unchanged. “The house needed a new roof, and obviously some repainting and landscaping. I kept everything on the outside the same colors,” Kelli says. Preserving original features was key to Kelli’s vision for her renovation. “I wanted a house to keep its mystery from the outside, and its character on the inside.”



FOR MANY OWNERS SEEKING TO UPDATE their Mid Mod homes, the familiar adage "if it ain't broken, don't fix it" applies. With iconic and fantastic features that defined the era of Mid Century Modern design, many of these homes merely need a facelift versus a complete overhaul. The process of renovating requires a careful balance between making necessary and much needed updates to accommodate contemporary considerations, and maintaining all those features that give the home character and make it truly stand out. Idaho native Kelli Orr has spent the past decade lovingly and thoughtfully restoring and remodeling her 1958 Boise MCM home so that it embraces the best aspects of its original design while also accommodating her and her husband's personal style.

top: The living room feels much the same as it did over six decades ago. Kelli wanted to keep as much of the original design as possible as they are what breathe character into the home. "My personal favorite features are the floor to ceiling windows that let in so much natural light," she says. "The mahogany accent walls in every room make it feel so warm, and familiar to my childhood."

right: Part of the purchase of the home included many of the vintage furniture pieces from the original homeowners. "The couch, the side table and the credenza in the living room are all pieces that came with the house when I bought it," says Kelli. "I came to find out they are Knoll Associates, and I got the couch restuffed and reupholstered."



Kelli opted to turn one of the three bedrooms, as well as one bathroom, into a rental unit. It is sectioned off from the rest of the home with a private entrance and includes a sitting area, bedroom, and bathroom. Kelli's updates include new paint, flooring, and fun touches like the blue wallpaper.

Unfortunately, as in many older homes, some materials had to be replaced due to the wear and tear of time. Original cork tile flooring was among the casualties. "I wanted to preserve those but there was too much damage done to them when they covered everything in carpet in the 70's," Kelli says.

FINDING HOME

Born and raised in Boise, Kelli took a leap and purchased a home upon graduating college and starting her career as a dental hygienist in 2016. "I was apprehensive about buying a home that young but with some encouragement and help from my parents we made it happen; and thank goodness I did it then, because the housing market skyrocketed in price in our area shortly after," she says. When she came across the atomic-era residence of local commercial and residential architect Vic (V.K.) Hosford, she knew it was meant to be.

"It was perfect for me, after being on the hunt for months and not finding anything with character or curb appeal," she says. "Even though it was in pretty rough shape I knew I had to have it." Its close proximity to downtown Boise was another big selling point.

The home had been owned and inhabited only by the Hosford's since its construction, making Kelli only the second owner of the over seven-decade old home. "Vic Hosford's four children were born and raised here, and once Hosford and his wife passed, his children had plans to move away and sell it," she says. At this point she met Steve Hosford, the son of the home's architect, who is also a contractor who assists in many projects on the home. "He sold me the home without listing it on the market, for $200,000," she says. "We even bargained to have them leave the cool furniture with it, including items by Knoll, Nelson, and Mulhauser."

The kitchen feels like a blend of Mid Mod and contemporary style as Kelli's updates provide functional and aesthetic updates. "To get a more open concept, easy access to the dinnerware, I removed the cabinet doors, although I still have them and will always keep them," she says. "I just didn't think they functioned that well for us."

MAKING CHANGES

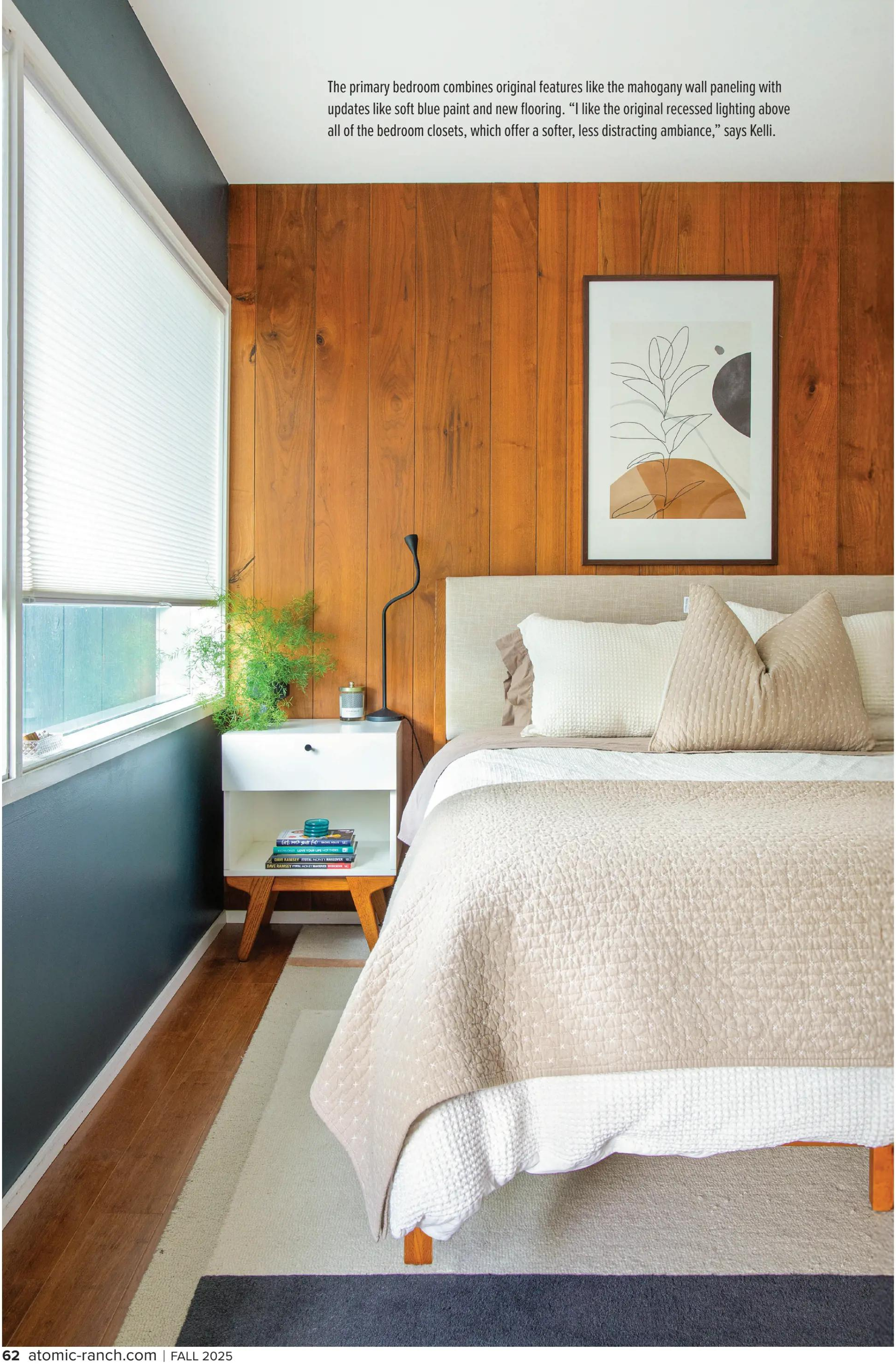
Despite its age, the home has largely maintained the same footprint over the decades. Originally a two-bedroom, one bath single family dwelling, the Hosford's added on three small bedrooms and an additional bathroom to accommodate their growing family. Other than this, the home remained much the same when Kelli purchased it. She knew from the beginning that she did not want to make major structural and design changes, but rather more minimal updates that highlighted the home's already unique and eye-catching look and feel.

"The home instantly stood out, it was always painted black with accent doors of green, and its single level, flat roof design with large windows, screens, and trees growing through various parts of the roof, was something I only dreamed of," Kelli says.

Keeping these features was key. "My goals in renovation were minimal," she says. "The house needed a new roof, and obviously some repainting and landscaping." The very first day she owned the home, she and her family created a primary bedroom from two of the small, added-on bedrooms, making the home now a three bedroom, two bathroom dwelling. In addition to some structural changes, there were also some important cosmetic updates. "Because it was built in the 50's I also know the owners smoked inside of the house for many years," she says. "My first year spent here was repainting and getting the walls and floors cleaned of stain and odor." In the years following, Kelli has slowly tackled one to two projects per year to get the house to how she, and now her husband Tommy, envision home.

In the interior entryway, the line between interior and exterior is blurred by large walls of windows. Throughout the home, furniture and other elements from the era add to the feeling of authenticity. "I had fun decorating with unique pieces and thrifted vintage items," Kelli says.

Modern swaps give the home a more contemporary feel, though the aesthetic doesn’t stray too far from MCM tastes. In this case, Kelli had to change out the original George Nelson Bubble lamp that hung over the dining table. “Due to the old failing roof, there was a leak that caused electrical problems resulting in it exploding,” she says. “It was extremely tragic. I hope one day to replace it with the same light.”



The primary bedroom combines original features like the mahogany wall paneling with updates like soft blue paint and new flooring. “I like the original recessed lighting above all of the bedroom closets, which offer a softer, less distracting ambiance,” says Kelli.

above, left: “The house was full of original Mid Century Modern furniture, some of which I had to get reupholstered and refinished,” says Kelli. The palette for the home is greatly influenced by period appropriate colors, with a gentle nod to contemporary adaptations.

above, right: The guest bathroom originally had Formica countertops, but due to age and wear, Kelli had to replace them with a simple and functional substitute. Part of the rental unit, the style in this space has a more contemporary feel though retains a Mid Mod foundation.

right: The primary bathroom features original cabinetry and wood wall paneling. “I had a shower and floors retiled,” says Kelli. The space also doubles as the laundry room. “I enjoy having a washer and dryer in there so I can wash my clothes immediately as well as enjoy my hot towels from the dryer when I get out of the shower,” says Kelli.

“It is hard not living in something perfect, but it also makes you appreciate things more as you go,” she says. With many plans for future projects, Kelli and her husband will continue to shape the home’s style while honoring its roots in traditional Mid Century Modern design.

SEE RESOURCES, PAGE 88

ALL ABOUT THE ARCHITECT: **V.K. “VIC” HOSFORD**

TJ Pierce of Mid-Century Homes by Anthology shares about this influential Mid Mod Boise architect.

Born: 1935

Location: Boise, ID

Types of Work Done: Civic projects, commercial and residential

Notable Project: Idaho Supreme Court Building

Design Philosophy: “Hosford believed in homes that lived well. His work often blended clean horizontal lines with warm, natural materials—like the original mahogany wall paneling in this home, which the owners love and have thoughtfully preserved. He paid close attention to how spaces felt—not just how they looked. Windows were placed to frame the outdoors like art, floor plans encouraged flow and connection, and there was always a sense of harmony between form and function.

“The home featured here is a perfect example. Modest from the street, it opens up into something timeless and deeply livable. The original finishes have aged with grace. There’s intention in every corner, and a kind of quiet confidence in the way the house holds space for everyday life.

“Hosford didn’t set out to be flashy. He wasn’t trying to be trendy. He designed for people—for the way they move, gather, rest, and grow. And decades later, that thoughtfulness still shines through.”

top, left: Kelli notes that removing the bushes did come at the cost of losing some of the privacy they afforded. "But we are hopeful to gain that back over the years with new growth," she says. Iconic mid mod style breezeblocks are added but feel original to the home. **above:** Kelli calls this seating area as her "backyard oasis" – and it was a labor of love. She describes the arduous process of uncovering the back patio as the biggest transformation for the entire home. "It was crumbled red brick hidden by the overgrown arborvitae," she says. "We cut everything back, built a fence, garden beds, poured a concrete patio and redid the porch."

DESIGNED TO RENT

Homeowners of a 1957 Alexander/Krisel home give an inside perspecitve on getting an MCM home to be a vacation rental.

By **Jolene Nolte** • Photography by **Oscar Flink**

Pops of chartreuse, yellow and blue add a sense of carefree, mid-century vibrancy that makes the 1957 Krisel home feel more like a fun vacation home. Concrete floors are eminently practical for the wear and tear of guests coming and going.

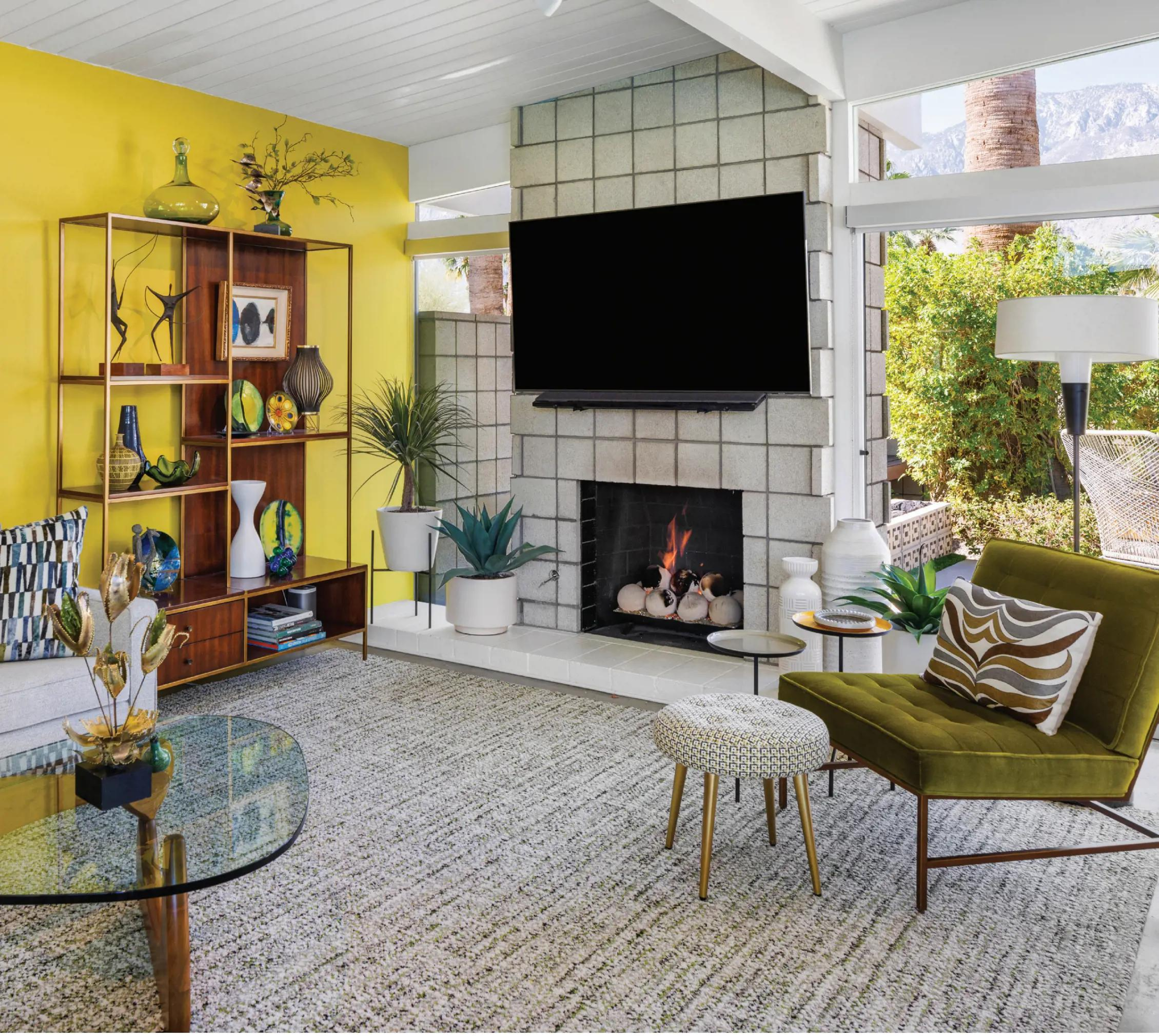
FOR RANDI MEREL AND HER HUSBAND ALLEN LEHEW, finding a home in the Little Beverly Hills neighborhood of Palm Springs was just the beginning. The couple is based in Chicago and loves the Palm Springs MCM style and vibe. When they bought a 1957 home built by the Alexander Construction Company with William Krisel as the architect, it met all their criteria: Krisel-designed, with clerestory windows and floor to ceiling glass for stunning views and that classic indoor-outdoor feel. However, being based in Chicago, they were only able to use the home for a few weeks per year. In addition to a vacation home, it became an investment as a vacation rental property, dubbed West Elm House 1, the Alexander.

BUILD ON AN MCM FOUNDATION

If your vacation home rental is in a Mid Century Modern Mecca like Palm Springs, then making sure your home reflects that is the first layer. The previous owners had recently renovated, and so their job was to furnish it and make it vacation-rental worthy. Randi decorates with a mix of old and reproduction. It's important for her that the design pays homage to the location but also can stand up to the wear and tear of heavy use. Her furniture is a mix of reliable stylish finds from West Elm, Bludot, and Mitchel Gold + Bob Williams with some MCM minded new picks from Modway and Modernica. She used FLOR for some of her high-traffic areas because of it's durability and ease of maintenance. "I was really impressed because I picked my patterns online and when they arrived they were exactly as pictured—the colors looked just like they did onscreen," she says.

top: In addition to appeal and comfort, the furniture needs to be durable, especially if it's outdoors. Notice as well that while the landscape creates a natural border around the conversation area, there are no prickly cactus in this central spot.

above: The canvas sail provides welcome shade from the desert sun and an ideal spot for lounging and conversation while also being able to keep an eye on kids in the pool. The bright turquoise and yellow adds to the carefree vacation feel.

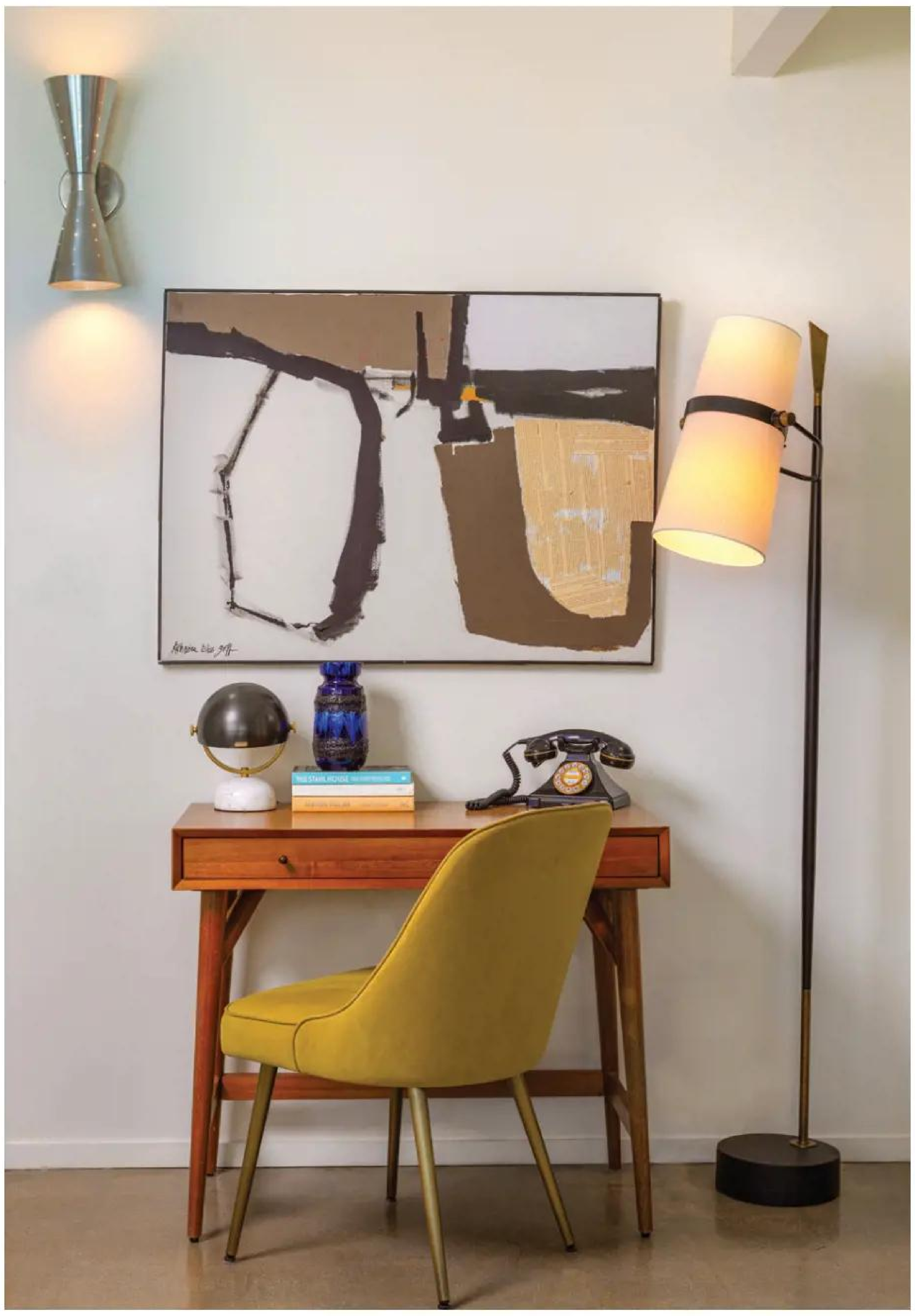


Randi recently updated the rugs in some key rooms with FLOR carpet tiles. She was in search of something that was durable and easy to care for and was drawn to elevated modernist style of this Tailored Touch pattern for the living room.

Even if you don't live in Palm Springs or a location similarly known for its Mid Century Modern style, the aesthetic will still draw visitors who much prefer the clean lines, good vibes and great design of the mid-century rather than the unremarkable style of most hotels or rentals.

CREATE A READY FOR ANYTHING EXTERIOR

If someone is renting an entire home for their vacation, there will likely be many people. On vacation, "people really are looking for an indoor-outdoor experience," Randi says. Make sure to accommodate that by having several outdoor zones that serve for mingling and retreat, dining, relaxing and playing. Also, make sure your exterior is ready for the variety of weather. For instance, Randi has outdoor fans installed on her home's outdoor porch and used artificial grass sparingly since that gets hotter than natural grass in the summer. Fire pits are also appealing for cold desert nights. Make sure there are plenty of shaded areas for shelter from the sun.



A stylish desk is one of those practical amenities that's simple to have but offers a well-appointed and well lit place for guests working remotely.

BE PRACTICAL

When it comes to furniture, Randi says that you be aware that no one is going to treat the home with the same care you will. "People will lay on the sofa like it's a bed. People will put their feet on a cocktail table," Randi says. So, Randi suggests, opt for consignment store furniture, monitor Facebook Marketplace or shop for replicas. "Make sure you don't have an emotional attachment to anything," she says.

You also want to keep in mind the variety of people who may be staying there. Is it kid friendly? Beware of hard edges on your furniture and the placement of prickly cactus in your landscaping. Is everything durable? Also, keep in mind that you might have quick "turns," when one group checks out and another checks in, potentially even the same day. Can everything in the house be easily cleaned or swapped out quickly to accommodate quick turns?

Randi actually keeps extra tiles of her FLOR rugs on-hand so that any stained sections can be quickly swapped out for the next guest while the stained tile is cleaned.

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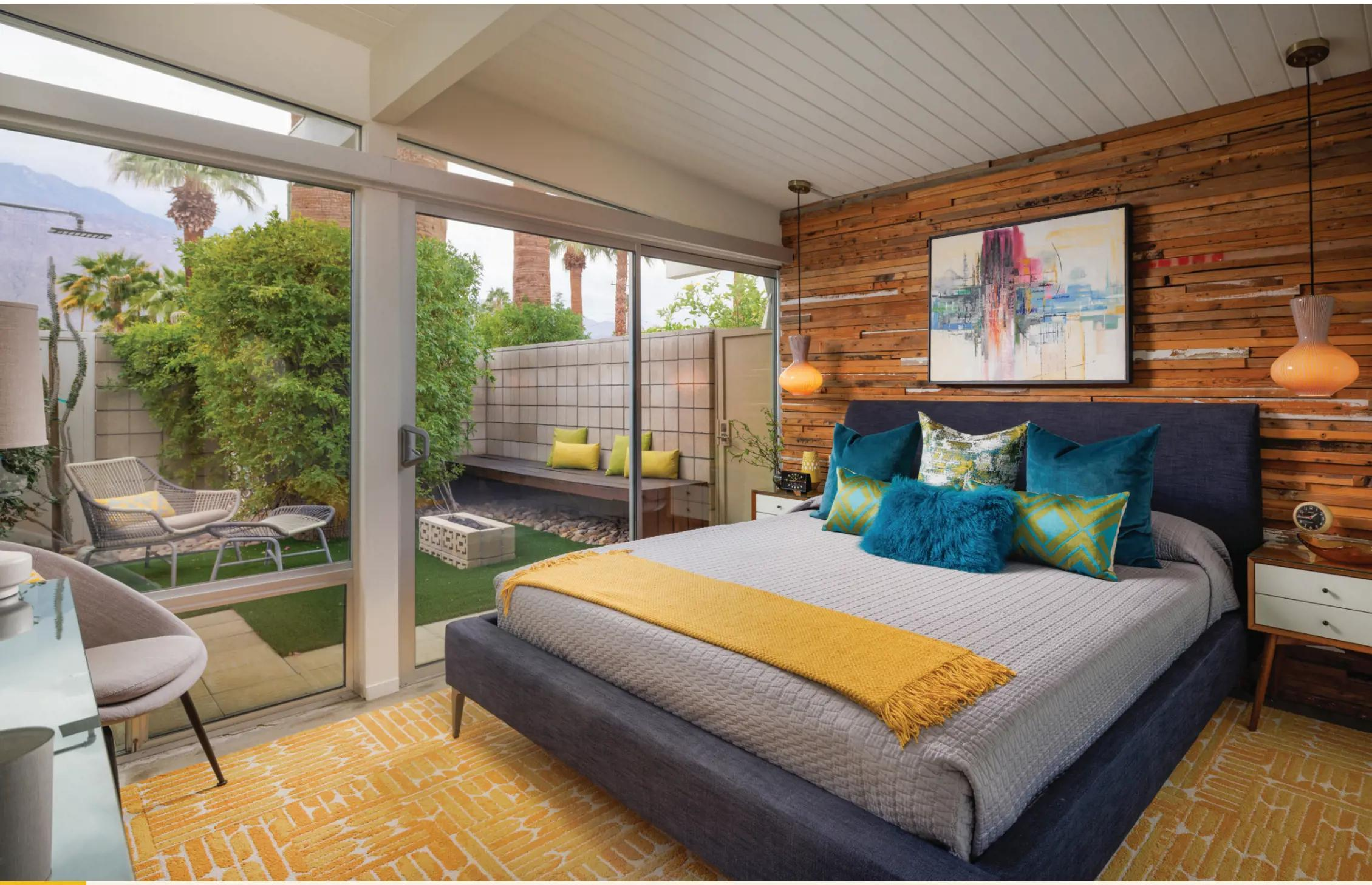

If you look closely, can you tell that the FLOR rug is actually carpet tiles? It's both extremely practical and stylish. The bedroom's sliding glass door opening out onto a patio with an outdoor shower creates the dreamy indoor-outdoor connection Palm Springs guests are looking for.

VERSATILE, PRACTICAL AND FASHIONABLE RUGS

Rugs add warmth, softness and style to living spaces. But what if the space you have in mind is a vacation rental? We spoke with James Pope, General Manager of FLOR, about how FLOR rugs are almost tailor made for this situation.

- **Versatility.** First of all, all FLOR rugs are made from carpet tiles. As you can see from Randi's home, you can't tell that they are tiles—it appears as one complete rug. If you'd like to experiment and mix and match tiles, you can. If you'd prefer a complete design ready to go, FLOR's signature rugs offer a solution. James elaborates, "FLOR provides the design and the number of carpet tiles needed—customers can choose a size, put it together, and enjoy."
- **Practicality.** "When one carpet tile is damaged or stained, it can be easily washed or replaced with limited maintenance or resources," James says. "This is especially great for vacation rentals that are often more prone to spills and mess."
- **Fashion.** James explains, "In February 2024, we launched our immersive area rug collaboration collection with fashion designer Trina Turk." The debut collection was vintage and Palm Springs-inspired, making it a perfect fit for Randi's Palm Springs vacation rental, but also for others wanting to add a fun, fashionable splash.
- **But how do you choose?** With the potential for guests with varying tastes, we asked James how vacation rental owners should choose from FLOR's many options. James replied, "Although rental guests may have varying design tastes, the best thing designers can do is choose a lane and stick to it. Confident design equals beautiful design, and FLOR can help you achieve a well-thought out, on-trend space fit for any style."

To see the Trina Turk x FLOR collection, visit **flor.com/TrinaTurk.html**.

The funky light fixture and texture from the wood wall add warmth while the headboard and bedding create a sense of serenity.

VACATION STYLE

With all that said, you can invest a bit more and have fun with wall art and lighting fixtures. “People don’t tend to damage those,” Randi says. This will keep the atmosphere vibrant and fun. Don’t be afraid to go bold with the color, either. “It makes it feel more like a vacation rental rather than staying in someone’s home,” Randi says of her vacation home’s color scheme of chartreuse with yellow and blue accents.

In terms of appealing to a wide range of tastes, Randi says, “People like the modern, sleek aesthetic line. Keep it comfortable but simple.” ⚛

To learn more about Little Beverly Hills, visit **littlebeverlyhillsps.com**.

To learn more or book your stay at the West Elm House 1 - The Alexander, visit **acmehouseco.com**.

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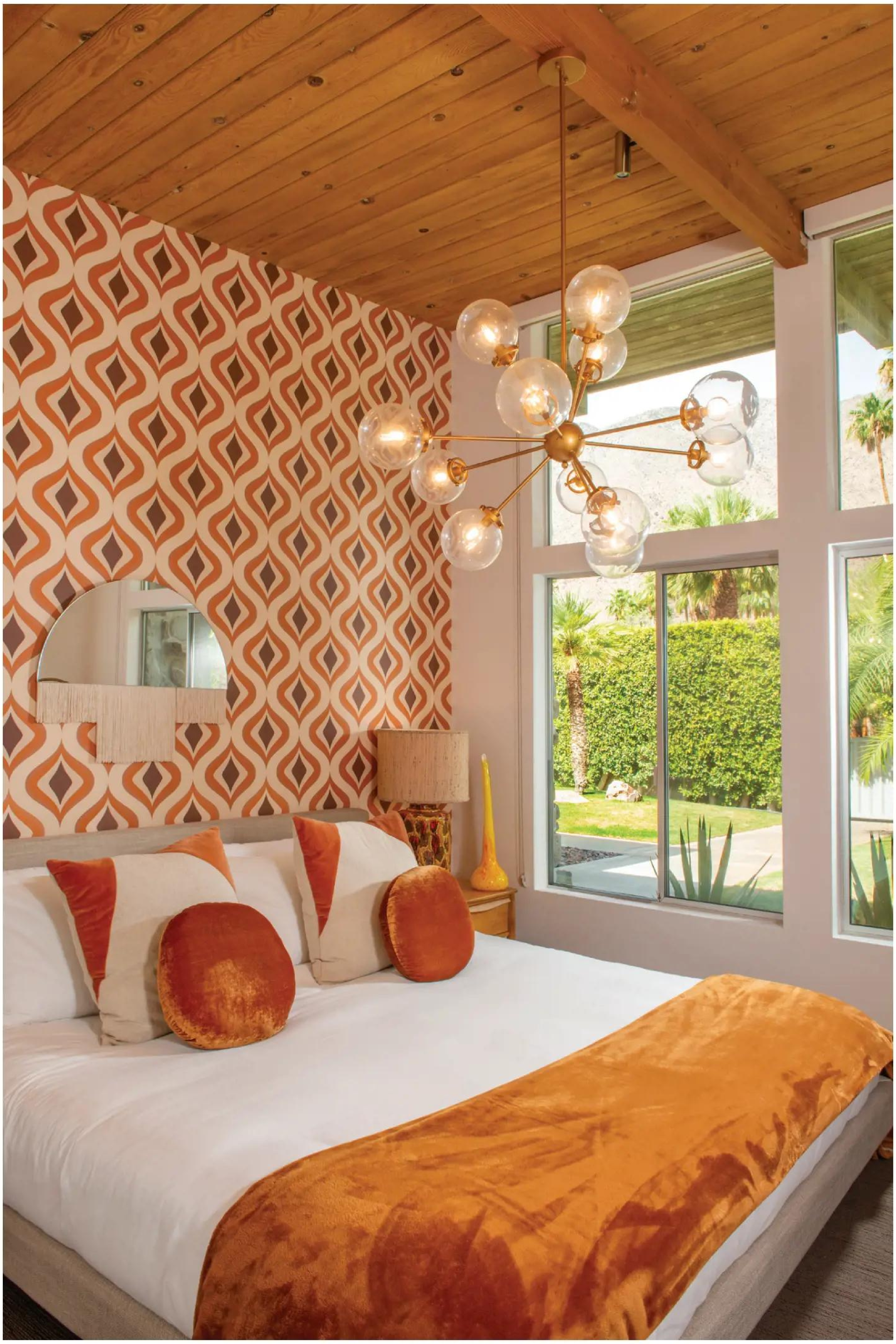
PRIMARY PRIORITY

Bedroom décor ideas to create a perfectly cozy respite.

By **Jickie Torres**

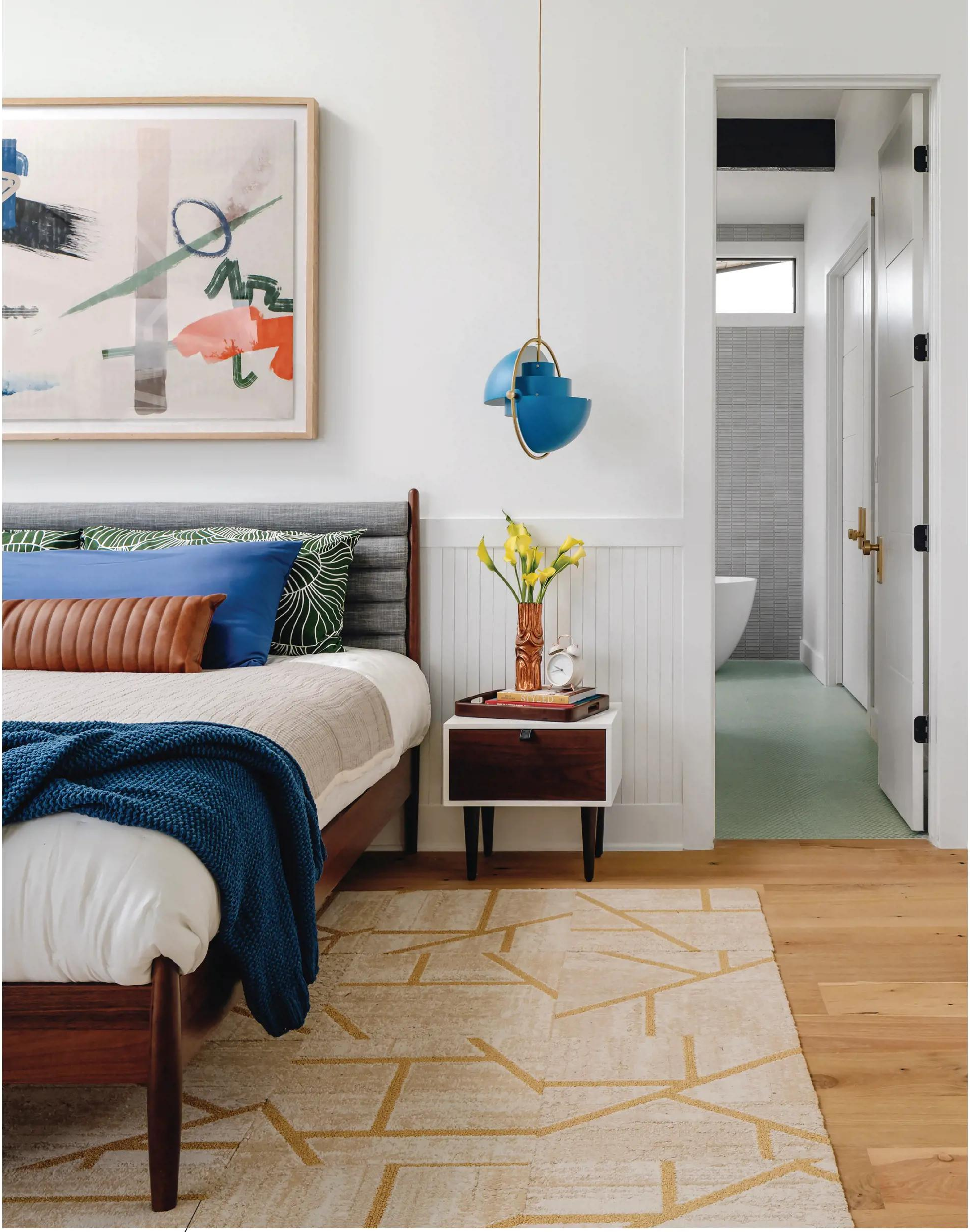


IT'S NOT ALWAYS the first space we finish as we renovate, remodel and complete our homes, but it's certainly one of the most important. Our bedrooms are our havens—spaces that greet us at first light and welcome us after a long day. So they should be designed for comfort and peace and happiness! Here are a few bedrooms that hopefully will inspire you and give you ideas for perfecting your primary spaces of rest.

BRING ON THE LIGHT

Photo by Dan Chavkin

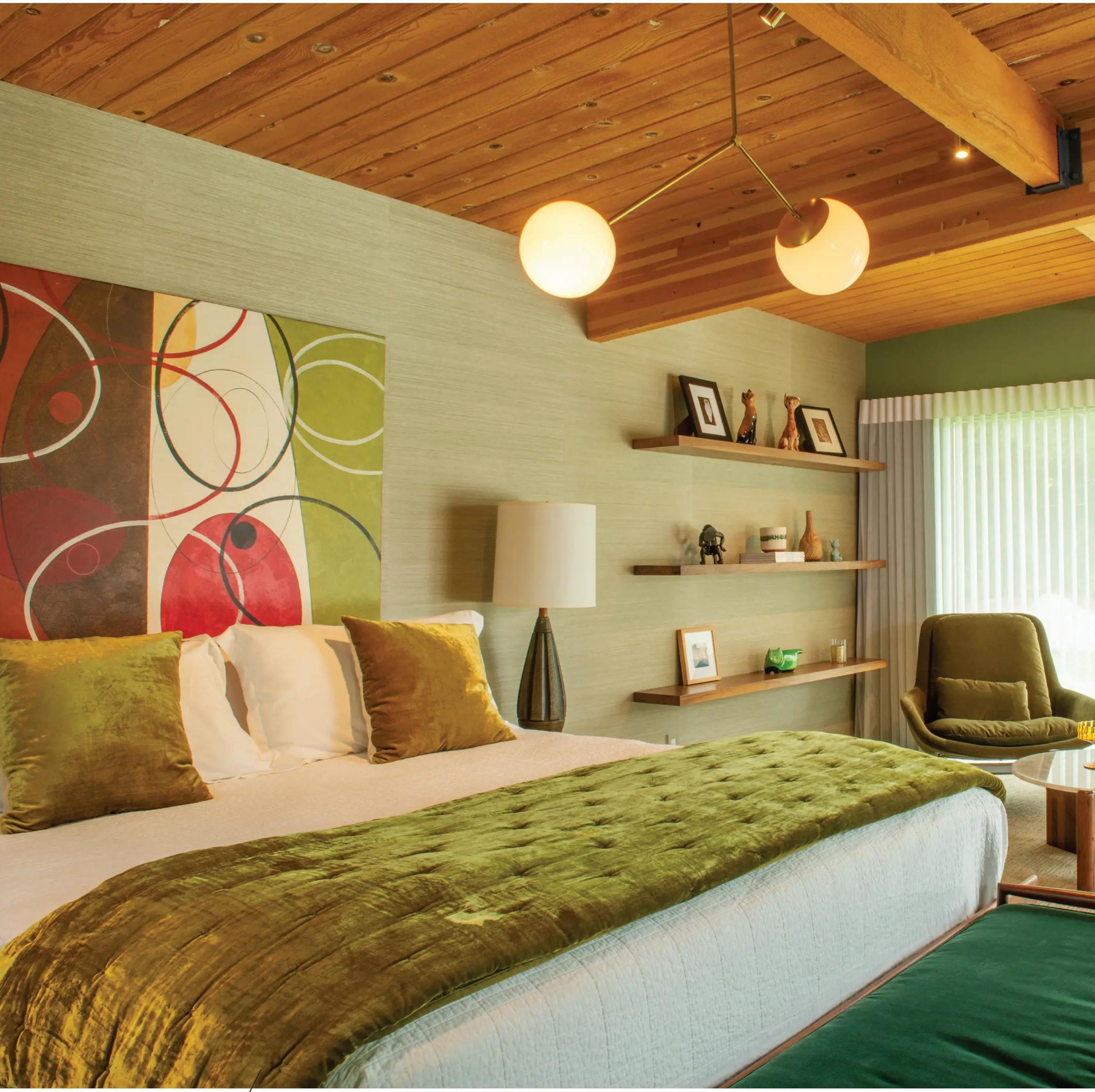
Michelle Boudreau designed the bedrooms in this William Krisel in the Las Palmas neighborhood of Palm Springs to have eye-catching lighting, because why not create a bedroom that has as much wow factor as a living room or dining room?



DISTINCTIVE STYLE

Photo by Chase Daniel

Primary bedrooms offer an opportunity to create a relaxing sanctuary that will help relieve daily stresses. “It can exist in a vacuum on a certain level because it’s a private space, so this room is more subtle” says interior Designer Christine Ho of Breathe Design Studio of this space she created in a mid-mod minded new build in Austin, Texas. “I wanted it classic, clean and timeless so it wouldn’t compete with the views,” The pendant lights from Lumens offer a dramatic effect hanging from the high ceiling and they also bring in a bit of color. The golden FLOR rug lightens the vibe with its subtle geometric pattern and glowing color.

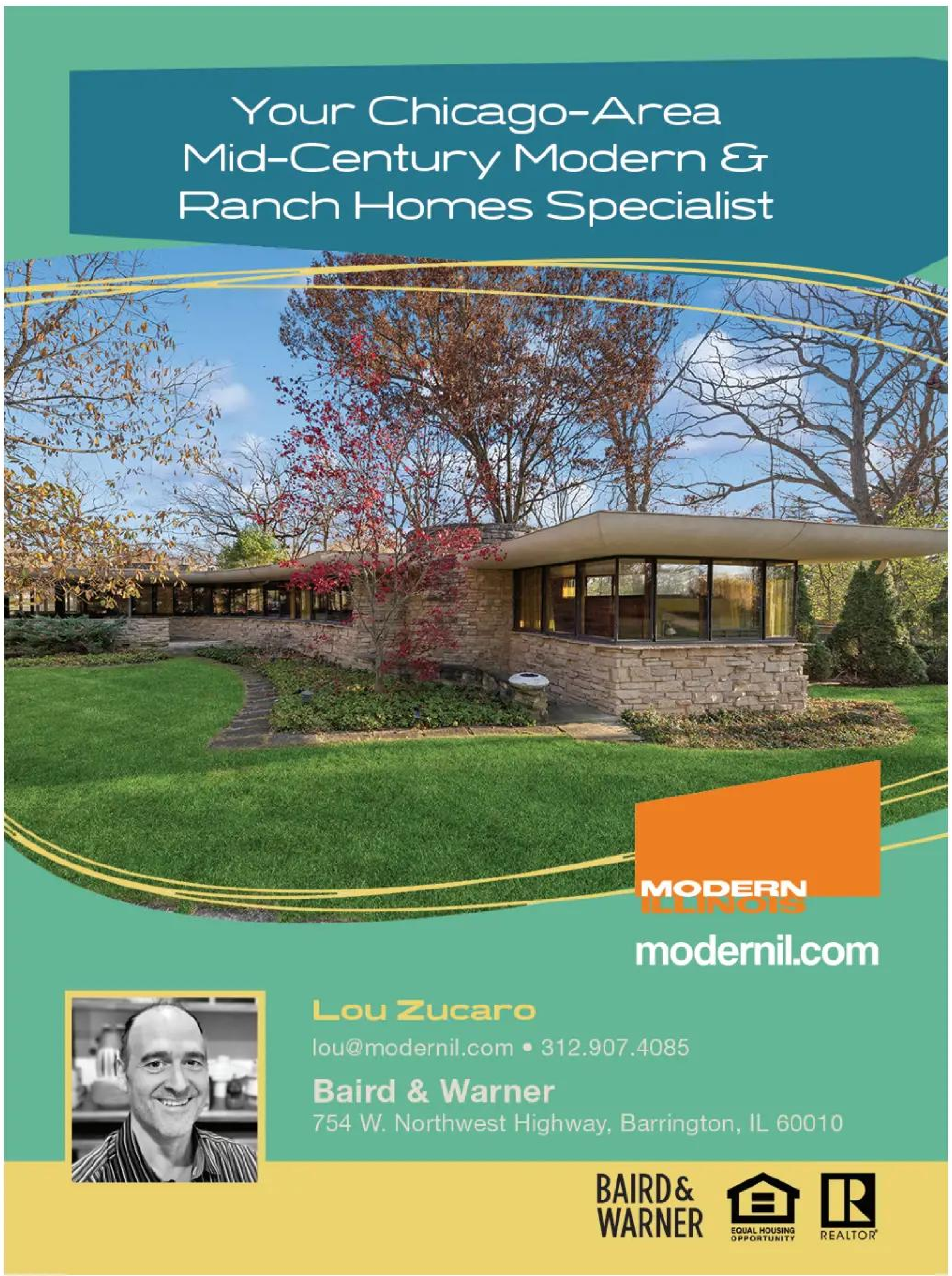


COZY TEXTURES

Photo by Dan Chavkin

In this primary bedroom designed by Michele Boudreau, The palette and textures create a quiet, inviting feel where old and new are interwoven. “The owners wanted to be welcomed into their bedroom with a sense of calm,” Michelle says. “I continued the serene vibe of the greens-and-neutrals palette and layered in natural textures with grasscloth wallpapers and the owners own special vintage pieces.”

The seating area complete with a coffee table invites you to spend more time in the space—options translate as luxury! The open shelving offers places to display special mementos and collectibles adding even more warmth and personality to the room.



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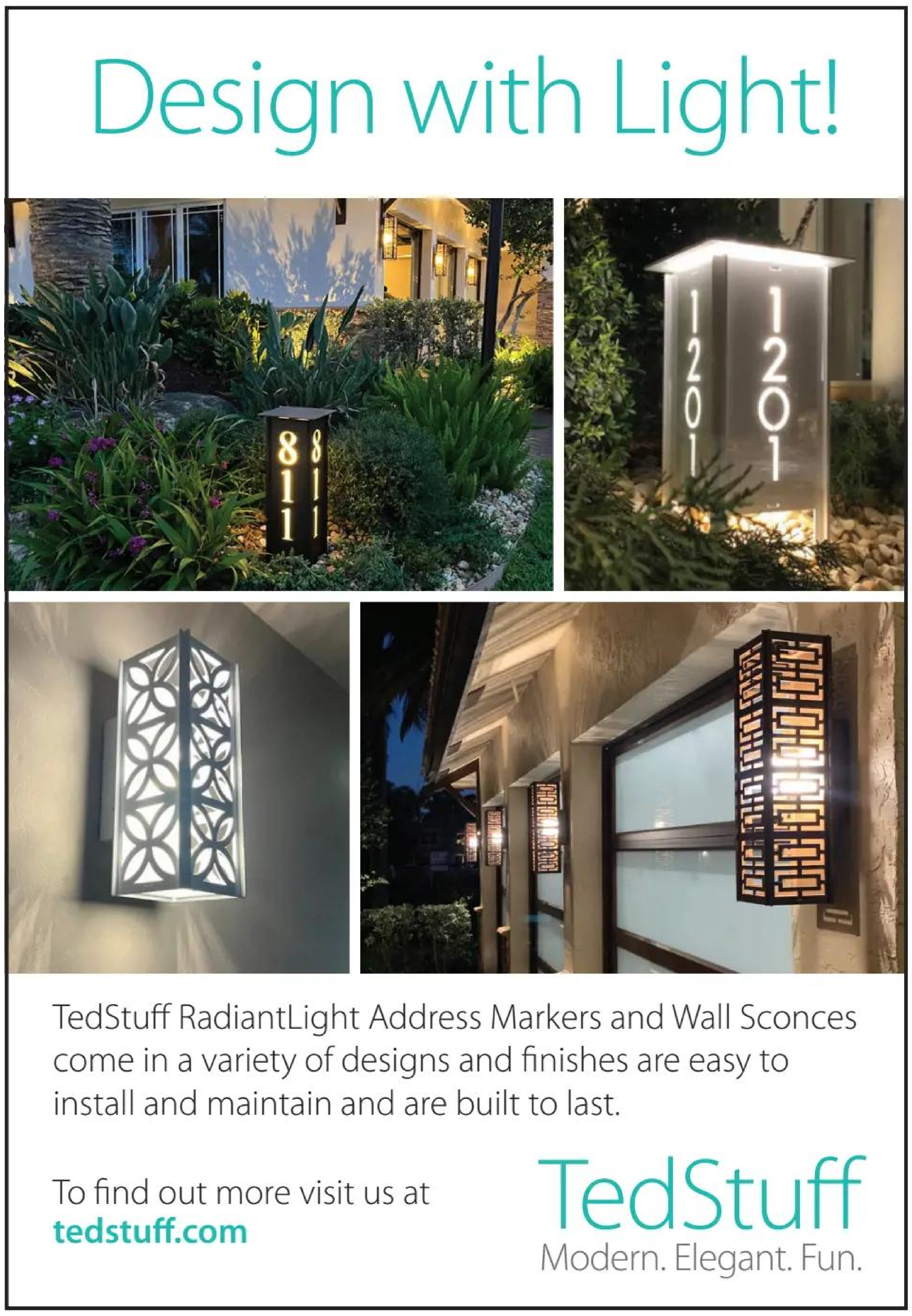

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MID CENTURY ABC'S

A comprehensive look at the world of design produced in the Mid Century Modern era reveals how much the modernist movement touched all things.

By **Jickie Torres**

2

IT’S NOT UNTIL you take the 10,000-foot elevation look at the canon of Mid Century Modern designed things that you realize how pervasively the aesthetic and its principles have affected many of the things you interact with in the world. Beyond furniture and architecture, artists and designers influenced by the movement created everything from toys to utensils to electronic devices that pushed the boundaries of innovation while simultaneously challenging the creator to embrace simplicity and distillation. The new book *Mid-Century Modern Designers* by Dominic Bradbury ambitiously and successfully presents the key works of the era helping to elucidate the totality of the modernism’s distinctive style and they way it permeated—and in many ways has forever influenced—design as a whole.

1: Danish designer Kay Bojesen trained under George Jensen as a silversmith but honed his craft working with a variety of materials from ceramic to steel. But it’s his Wooden Monkey which is his most famous design. Created in 1951, the child’s toy is joyful and exuberant but also incredibly refined. “It was an elegantly designed product, “ Bradbury writes, “Made of natural materials, in which the monkey’s figure was reduced to a small number of complementary rounded parts within one cohesive, expressive composition.”
Photo credit: Kay Bojesen Denmark

2: Brazilian designer Ricardo Fasanello had always intended to be a car designer but after getting in an accident in his Porshe Spyder 550, he opted to chart course for a different profession. By the 1960s he got into furniture design, but not unsurprisingly the sleek styling and materials of the auto world remained strong influences on his work. His most famous design the Esfera Chair of 1968 exemplifies this. “Made with a tilted half-orb of glistening fiberglass on a circular stand, the piece was fitted with matching leather-upholstered seat and back cushions, the resulting composition infused with a spirit of Space Aage futurism,” Bradbury writes.
Photo credit: Atelier Tamowski Fasanello

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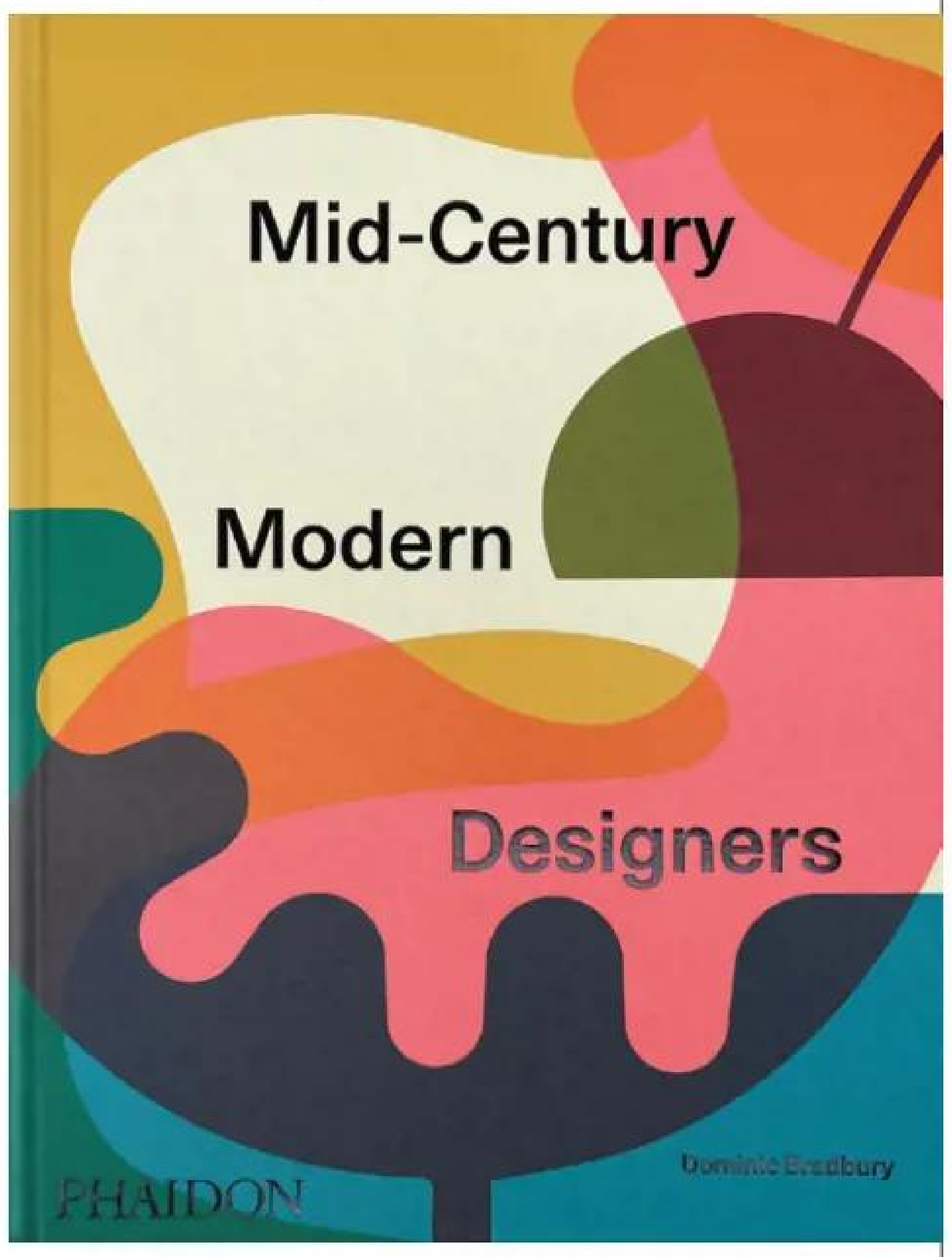
The best part about Bradbury's assemblage is its valiant attempt at thoroughness. While cataloging every single landmark design from the era would be near impossible, the author has managed to gather from all over the globe striking examples of works that pull into view the whole spectrum of the voices and products that represent Mid-Century Modernism. From Alvar Aalto, Charles and Ray Eames and Pierre Jeanneret to lesser known figures like Italian architect and furniture designer Gaetano Pesca and British textile designer Barbara Brown, the list is robust. Hundreds of photos act to document the noteworthy pieces that defined the era from furniture to glassware, lighting, ceramics, tableware and more. Bradbury writes about each designer, their origins, trajectories and significant works to provide enough framework and perspective to understand the artists point of view and whetting the appetite to want to learn more.



Mid-Century Modern Designers by Dominic Bradbury, published by Phaidon © 2025, Phaidon.com.

To find a designer that created for the future, look no further than Richard Sapper. Born in Germany, Sapper's body of work was mostly created in Italy with longtime collaboration partner Marco Zanuso. "While his work embraced many categories, including lighting and furniture, Sapper is best known today for innovative inventions that gave form to new-generation electronics and communication products while enhancing their functionality through intuitive, integrated controls," Bradbury writes. Radios, televisions, telephones. Sapper worked on then all. "Sapper and Zanuso reinvented the television with their futuristic compact Doney 14 of 1962. The piece was designed around the dimensions of the screen and it's cathode ray tube, which were wrapped in a rounded plastic case set on slim steel supports...which were in turn anchored to a reinforcing band that encircled the body of the television, while the controls were neatly inserted into the upper surface of the casing." The duo's clamshell Gillo Telephone they designed for Siemens in 1966 featured a mouthpiece that unfolded to reveal the integrated dial and earpiece in the main segment of the phone. If that sounds familiar it's because that design remains a key reference for electronics and cellphones even today. Photo courtesy of Richard Sapper Archives

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Kenji Ekuan was one of Japan's most influential industrial designers. He abandoned plans to become a Buddhist monk in favor of pursuing the creative field of product design which was a booming industry as the Japanese economy was rebounding after the destruction of Hiroshima. While a lot of Ekuan's work revolved around emerging technologies (he collaborated frequently with Yamaha and helped to design their R-3 Hi-Fi tuner in 1954, their electric organ in 1962 and their snowmobile in 1968) his most enduring design comes in the form of the everyday soy sauce bottle which he created for Kikkoman in 1961. "As a pioneer in his profession, Ekuan had an impact on the evolution of industrial design in Japan that has been compared to that of such mid-century masters in America as Raymond Loewy," Bradbury writes. Credit: © Kikkoman Corporation

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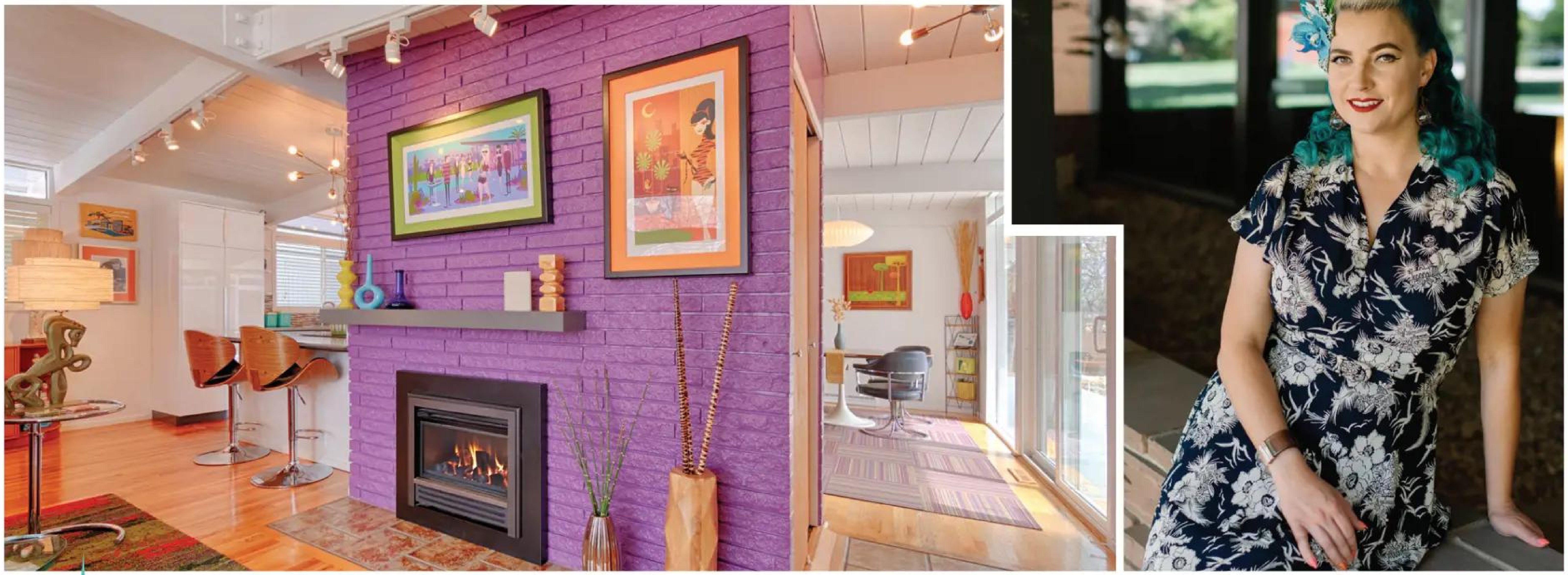

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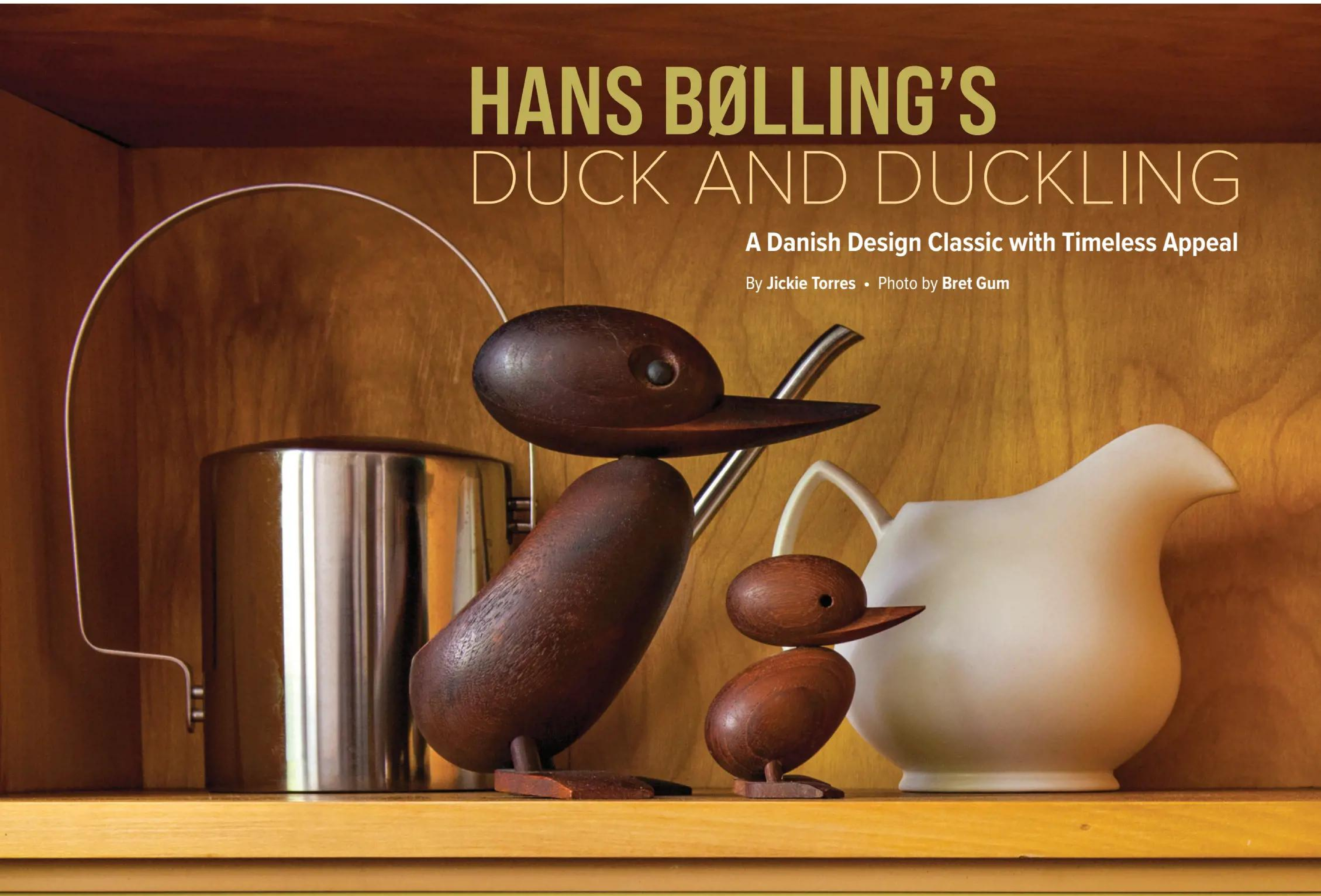
HANS BØLLING'S DUCK AND DUCKLING

A Danish Design Classic with Timeless Appeal

By **Jickie Torres** • Photo by **Bret Gum**



HANS BØLLING (BORN 1931) is a celebrated Danish architect and designer known for his playful yet refined approach to mid-century modern design. Trained at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Bølling's early career was shaped by Denmark's rich modernist tradition, emphasizing natural materials and functional beauty.

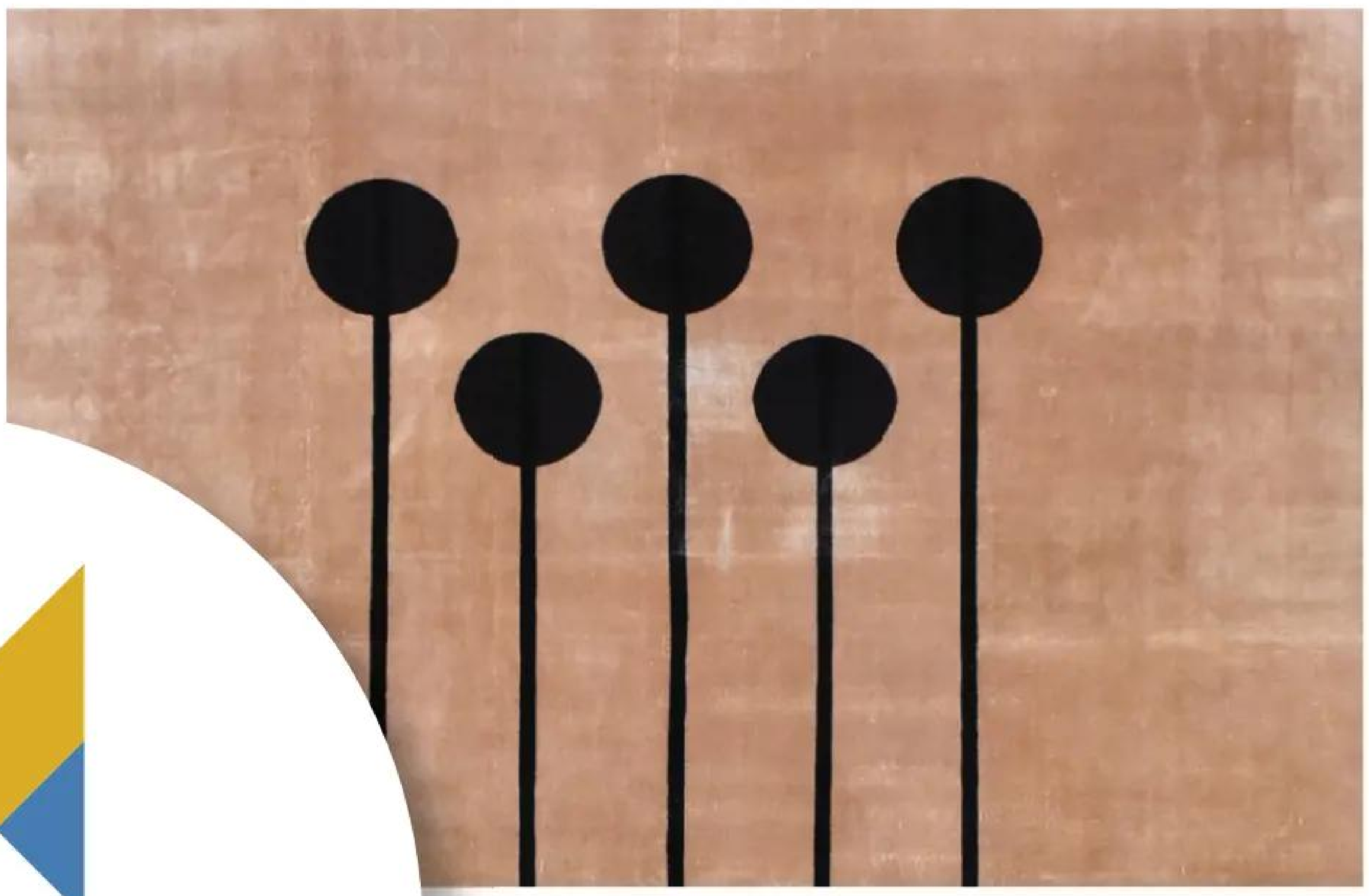
Although primarily an architect, Bølling gained international recognition for his whimsical wooden figures, including his iconic Duck and Duckling (1959), inspired by a real-life moment when a police officer stopped traffic to let a duck family cross a Copenhagen street. The heartwarming scene was captured in photos and became a widely beloved image in Denmark. Bølling translated the story into form with his Duck and Ducklings.

These simple yet expressive figures have since become beloved symbols of Danish design, blending storytelling with craftsmanship. They also capture the essence of Danish modernism: simplicity, function, and warmth.

Crafted from solid teak, the figures are hand-assembled and sanded, each one possessing slight variations that make them unique. The minimalist styling—rounded bodies, simple beaks, and pivoting heads—reflects Bølling's architectural training and his appreciation for Scandinavian modernism. Despite their simplicity, the pieces are expressive and full of personality.

Vintage Duck and Duckling sets, especially early productions or those with provenance, are increasingly sought after on the secondary market and can fetch between $200 and $800 for a complete set. Danish design house ArchitectMade reproduces them today according to strict and authentic standards as the original. They sell for $89 each.

The Duck and Duckling's appeal lies in their blend of design integrity and emotional resonance. They tell a story, add charm to a space, and align with the values of timeless design. Whether displayed in a nursery, on a bookshelf, or in a curated MCM home, they offer a moment of delight for design enthusiasts, collectors, and anyone charmed by a little duck with a big story.



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1. LANDSCAPING 101: THE MID CENTURY FRONT YARD
Leave a lasting impression with the mid century front yard of your dreams. Follow these expert tips and tricks for curb appeal that amaze! Credit: Photo by Patrick Ketchum

2. 8 STYLISH MID MOD BACKYARDS
Mod backyards and mid century patios come in all shapes and sizes. This gallery of great outdoor spaces should inspire you to outfit yours with some personalized style, and stylish luxuries no matter your budget. Credit: John Ellis

3. MID MOD PLANTERS AND WATERING CANS
Whether you want round or square, hanging or sitting, self-watering or just plain stylish, find the perfect mid mod planters and watering cans for your flora. Credit: Lumens.com

4. A MID CENTURY SUMMER MENU
Remember days of playing croquet in the backyard under hot, sun-kissed skies? Enjoy that era again with this mid century summer menu! Credit: FlourChild.com

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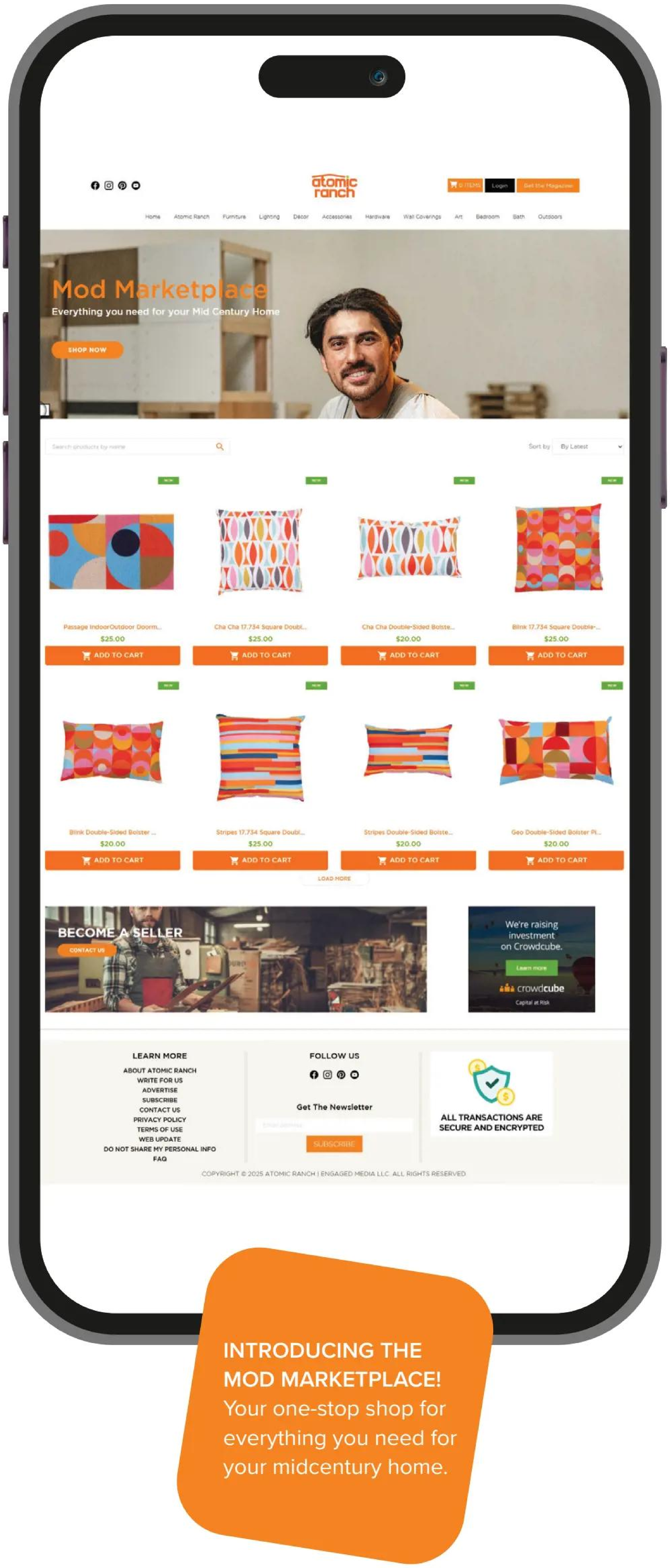

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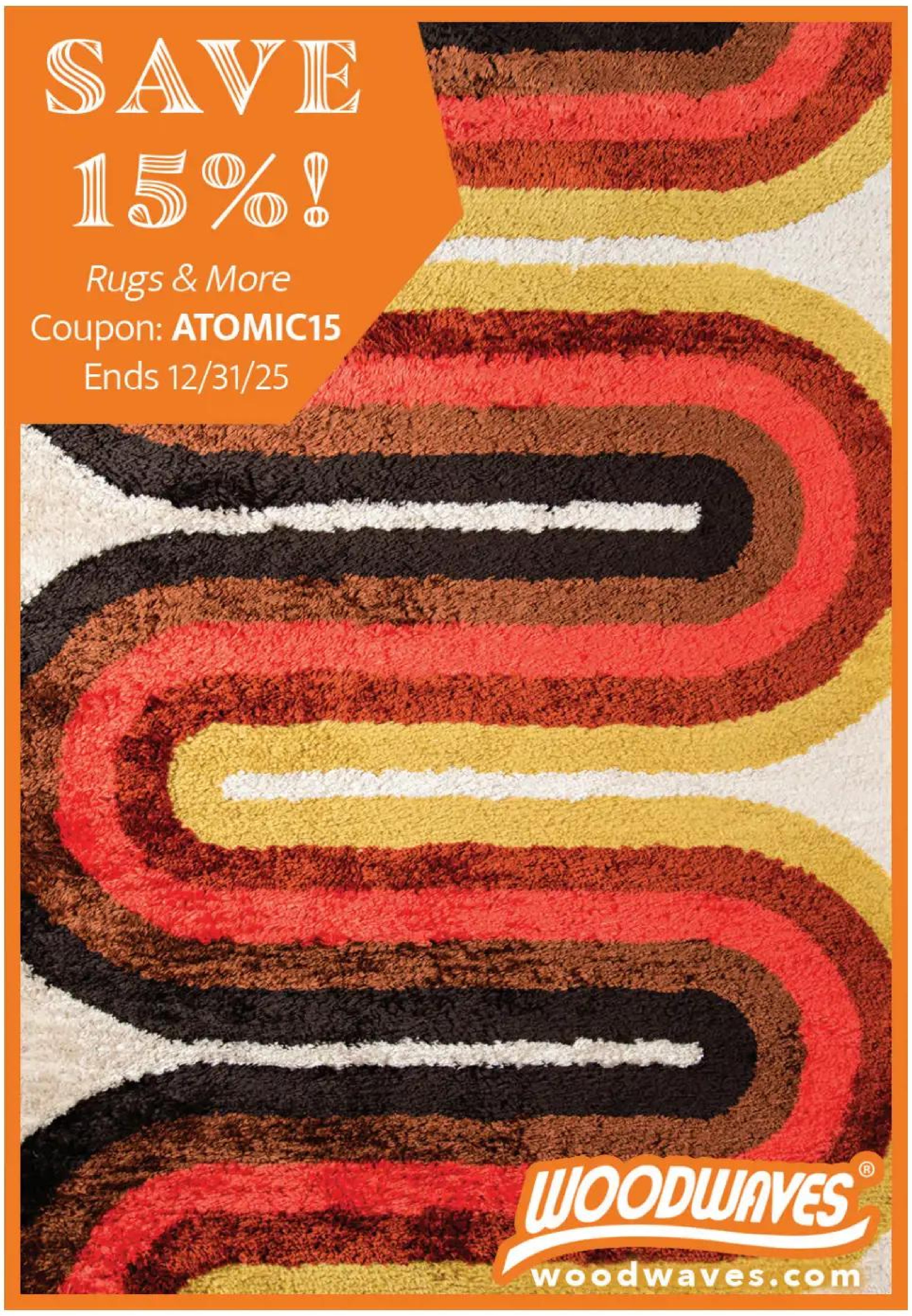

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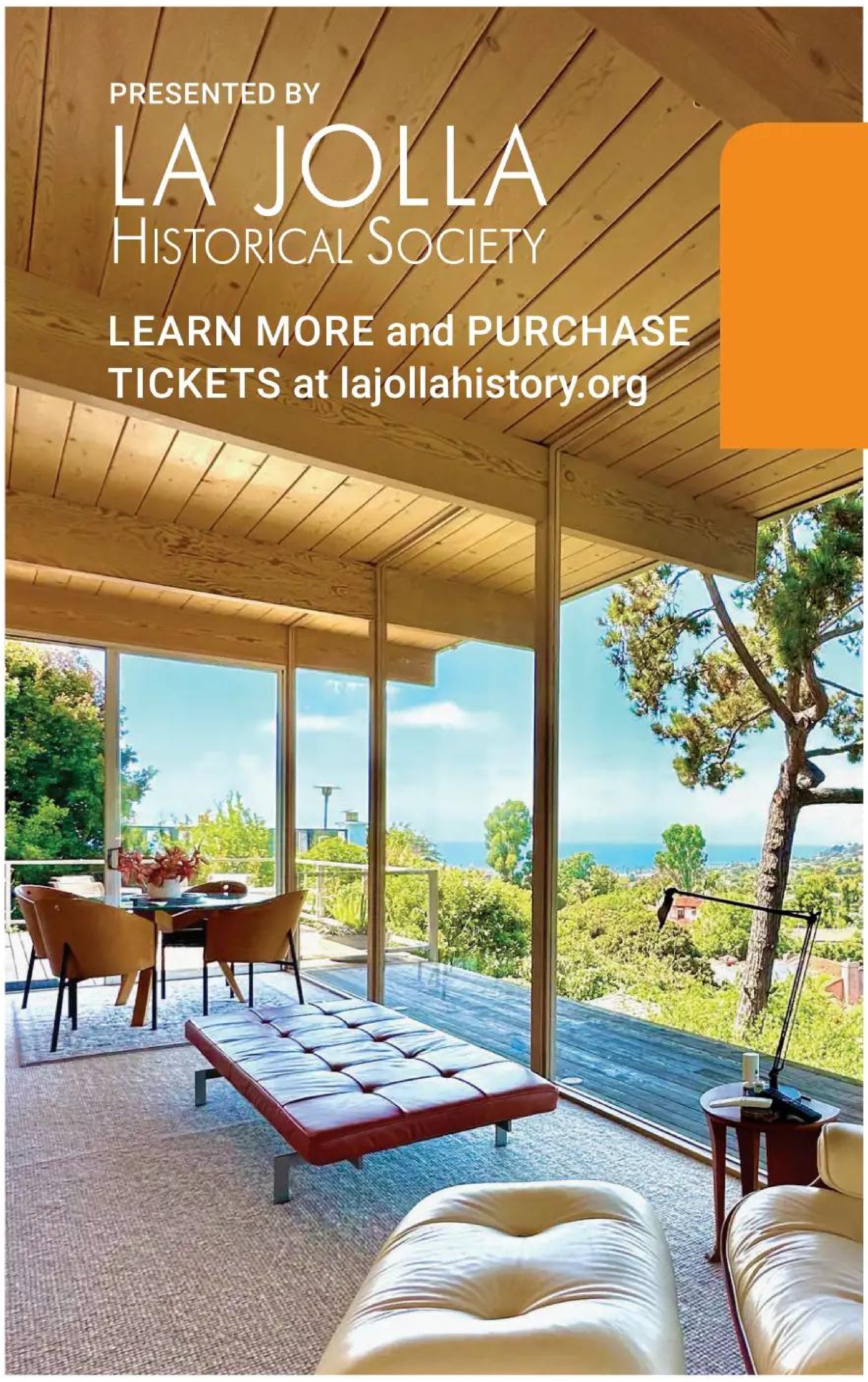

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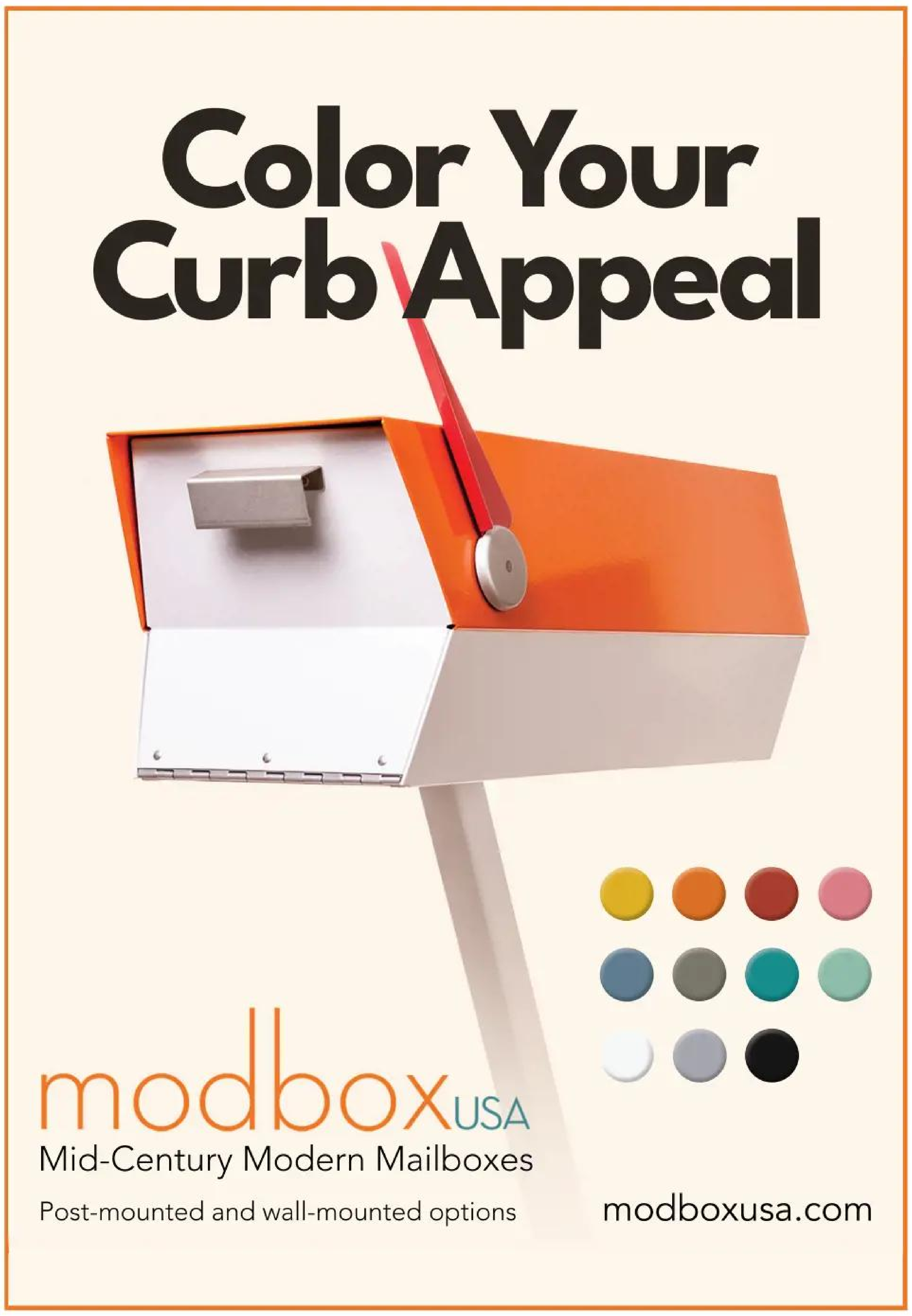
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resources

Retro Reveal

Page 16

Appliances: Thermador, thermador.com
Sink: Nantucket Sinks USA, nantucketsinkusa.com
Faucet: Brizo, brizo.com
Counters: Quartz - Frost White, Top Shop Stone, topshopstone.com
Backsplash tile: Trinity Tile, Color Code (colors: Golden Coast, Dijon, Amsterdam, Aquamarine, Santorini, Ihama, Highland, Macaron, Mandacaru), trinitytile.com
Floor tile: Riad, Terra 12x12, riadtile.com
Lighting: Rejuvenation, Dekum and Blaine, rejuvenation.com
Wallpaper: Kravet Couture, Panache in color Leaf, kravet.com

California Dreamin'

Page 24

Entryway wooden knot sculpture: Katie Gong, katiegong.com.
Entryway pendant, nightstand pendants: Herman Miller, hermanmiller.com.
Coffee table and white chair with blue cushion, lounge chair, office chair, living room side table: Eames
Sconces and linens: Schoolhouse, schoolhouse.com.
Primary bedroom dresser: Design Within Reach, dwr.com.
Primary bedroom vases: Heath Ceramics, heathceramics.com.
Office shelves: Vitsoe, vitsoe.com.
Living room pink chairs: Vintage but reupholstered in Kelly Wearstler fabric
Living room ottomans: Blu Dot, bludot.com.
Living room black star clock: Vitra, vitra.com.
Living room sofa: Custom designed and built

Remastering A Krisel

Page 38

Original architect: William Krisel, Alexander Company
Contractor: Shields Residential, shieldsresidential.com.
Interior design: Dama Interiors, damainteriors.com.
Interior stylist: Kate Flynn, kateflynn.com
Bar stools, globe pendants, track lighting: Lumens (Audo Copenhagen, Leo Pendant by Sean Lavin for Visual Comfort Studio, Silo X10 ACLED Track Head by WAC Lighting), lumens.com.
Chrome pitcher: Henning Koppel water pitcher, Georg Jensen, georgjensen.com.
Dining chairs: Forom, foromshop.com.
Framed drawing: Artist: Inès Tahiri-Alaoui, via The Oblist, oblist.com.
Tulip dining table, primary bedroom bed: Rove Concepts, roveconcepts.com.
Chair cushions: Custom using Perennials x Rose Tarlow fabric, perennialsfabrics.com.
Aluminum shelf: Frama, framacph.com.
Stemlite wall sconce: Gubi, gubi.com.
Large geometric painting: Artist: Jury Smith, Gallery: Studio Light Space, studiolightspace.com.
Head sculpture: Common Body (nathaniel kyung smith), common-body.com.
Small yellow bowl: vintage.
Large vessel on dining table and black vessel on metal console, large gray vessels: 101 Copenhagen, 101cph.com.
Hallway sconce: black Charlotte Perriand sconce by France and Son, franceandson.com.
Swing arm sconce (above sofa): Potence Pivotante by Charlotte Perriand via Nemo, nemolighting.com.
Sectional: Custom using Perennials Fabric, perennialsfabrics.com.
Throw: Soho Home, sohohome.com.
Shearling stool, jute rug: Custom
Coffee table: The Table Company, custom, inspired by George Nakashima, thetablecompany.com.
Side ceramic table: Artist Henry Kim (Hyunuko) via Gallery: Hammer and Spear, hammerandspear.com.
Stone table: Design Mix (Los Angeles), mixfurniture.com.
Side chair: TMBO (Store: Gestalt), gestaltnewyork.com.
Art prints: Artist Hiroshi Sugimoto, sugimotohiroshi.com.
Wire sculpture: Artist D'Lisa Creager, inspired by Ruth Asawa, dlisacreagersculpture.com.
Chess set: CB2, cb2.com.
Ficus Audrey tree, sculptural Dracaena tree: The Potted Earth Co, instagram.com/thepottedearthco.
Fireplace brick: Arto, arto.com.
Coffee table in bar/lounge: Lawson Fenning, lawsonfenning.com.
Stools and chairs: Eternity Modern, eternitymodern.com.
Custom oversize art: Artist: David Wooddell via Saatchi, saatchiart.com.
Mantis sconces in primary bedroom: Bernard Schottlander for DCW editions, lumens.com.
Bedding: Pom Pom at Home, pompomathome.com.
Art: Coco Republic/HD Buttercup, hdbuttercup.com.
Sheets: Quince, quince.com.
Throw pillow: Studio H Collection, studiohcollection.com.
Primary bedroom chair: Luteca, luteca.com.
Side table: Indonesian old stool, maker unknown (1stdibs seller)
Mirror: Gubi, lumens.com.
Side tables and nightstands: Sundays Company, sundays-company.com.
Planter: Vintage Willy Guhl
Primary bedroom rug, guest room rug, guest bath mirror: Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.
Poolside guest room sconces: Enna Surface Round LED Wall Sconce, astrolighting.com.
Wool and Jute custom rug in guest room: Rug and Kilim, rugandkilim.com.
Custom ebonized redwood wall sculpture: Seth Gravette via Hammer and Spear, hammerandspear.com.
Guest room headboard: Custom in Rose Uniacke textile via Una Malan, unamalan.com.
Guest room nightstands: Vintage 1960s
Guest room throw: Cultiver, cultiver.com.
Guest room pillow: Custom in Kufri textile.
Guest room pendants: Lambert & Fils, Spartan Shop, spartan-shop.com.
Custom woven fiber art installation: Candice luter, candiceluter.com.
Painting: Elena Barber, The Oblist, oblist.com.
Throw pillows: Ferm Living, fermliving.com.
Throw blanket: Studio H Collection, studiohcollection.com.
Guest bathroom double wall sconce: Michael Anastassiades for FLOS, flos.com.
Shower tile in guest bath: Heath Ceramics, heathceramics.com.
Umbrellas: One Kings Lane, onekingslane.com.
Fire cement loop outdoor chair: Willy Guhl
Poolside lounge chairs: Vondom, vondom.com.
Firepit armchairs: Industry West, industrywest.com.
Bed w/ built in nightstands, outdoor green dining chairs, counter Stools and dining table: Bludot, bludot.com.
Outdoor sconce: Cylinder 2 Light 15" Tall Outdoor Wall Sconce, Kichler Lighting, kichler.com.
Path lights: Atlantis LED Path Light in bronze, lumens.com.

Designed to Rent

Page 66

Sofa: Custom, West Coast Modern LA, westcoastmodernla.com.
Etagere, bar stool, bar storage, entry light, dining chairs, primary bedroom desk, chairs, primary bed sofa, primary bedroom bed, buffet console: West Elm, westelm.com.
Green slipper chair: Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, mgbw.com.
Noguchi cocktail table: sourced from Hedge, instagram.com/hedgepalmsprings.
Adrian Pearsall end table: curbside find in Chicago
Rug: FLOR, flor.com.
Paint color: Citron, benjaminmoore.com.
Painting: Pedestrian by Jim Zwadlo, codagallery.com/artist/1226-jim-zwadlo/cv?ppage=24
Saarinen style dining table: Modway, modway.com.
Nelson bubble lamp: Lumens, lumens.com.
Night tables: vintage
Nelson Bubble Lamps: Modernica, modernica.net.
Painting over primary bed: Artist Kippi Leonard, kipleeart.com.
Painting on back wall and over desk: Artist Katherine Goff
Portside loveseats, Huron chairs, sofa sectional, Huron chair: West Elm, westelm.com.
Coffee table, dining table: Allred
Dining chairs: Ryder by Gloster, sourced from Patios Plus, thepatiosplus.com.
Woodard cocktail table: vintage, sourced from Hedge, instagram.com/hedgepalmsprings.
Bar cart: Blu Dot, bludot.com.
White sculptures: Artist Dustin Gimble, instagram.com/dustingimbeldesigns.

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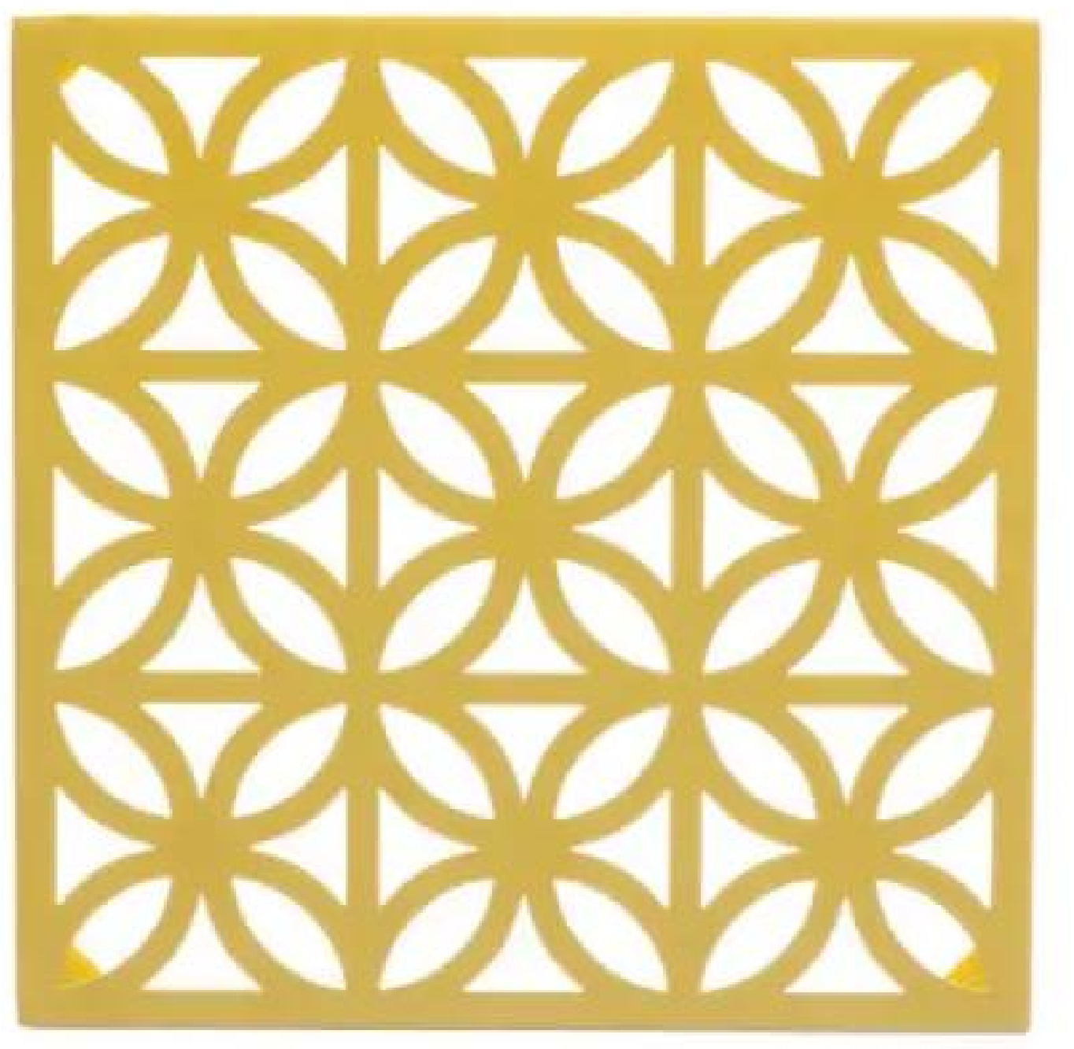

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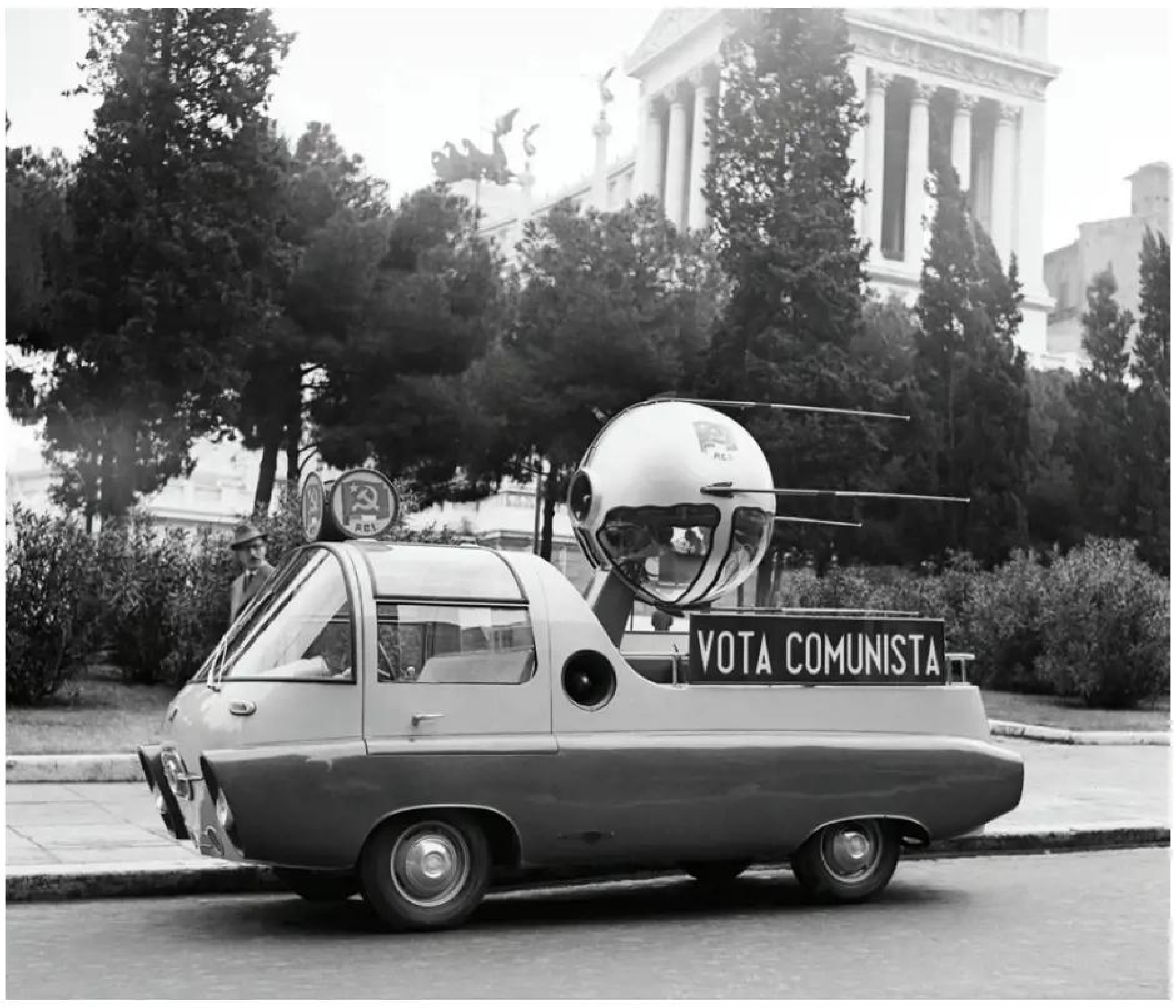

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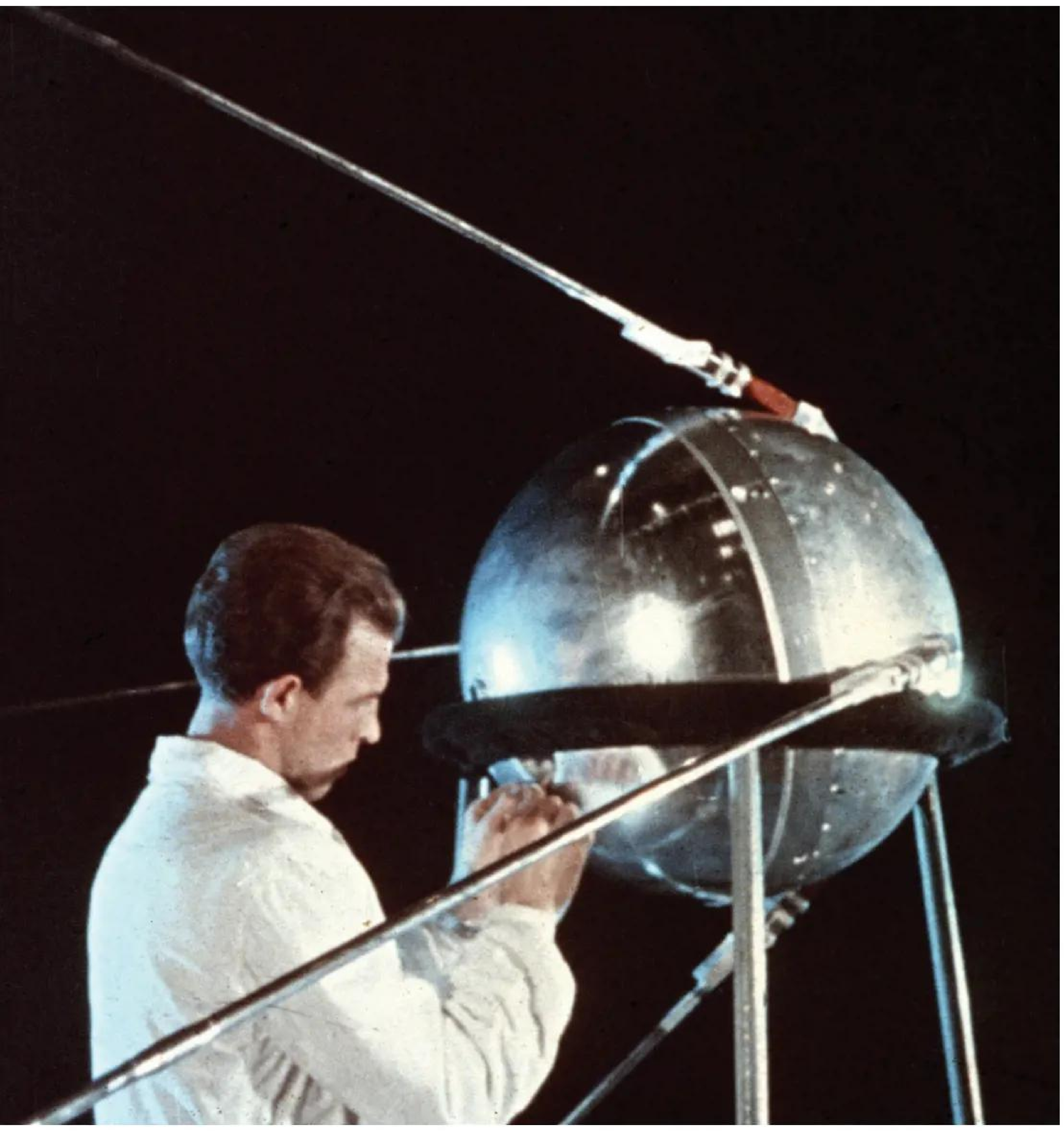

top, right: A man observes a model of Sputnik 1 on display in a Rome department store a month after the satellites launch. **top, left:** This auto-float toting a model of the Soviet Sputnik circled the streets of Italy during a political campaign. It was illustrating to the public that the communist vote was a vote for a modern future. **above:** A Soviet technician working on the actual Sputnik 1 in 1957.

The Soviet Union's diminutive satellite took the world by surprise and it has influenced the design world ever since.

By **Jickie Torres** • Photos from **Getty Images**

ON OCTOBER 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the world's first artificial satellite, a 23-inch diameter polished metal sphere with four radio antenna rods protruding behind it, into Earth orbit. Its job was to send a radio signal back to earth and it did so for three weeks until its silver-zinc batteries died and Sputnik 1 fell back into the atmosphere exactly 3 months later. The event officially triggered the Space Race between the US and the Soviet Union since in the years preceding the launch, both countries were competing for superior spaceflight and technological advancements, to increasingly tense degrees.

Sputnik 1 also further ignited the fascination with all things Atomic in the design world. George Nelson had already created his Model 4755 ball clock in 1948 after World War 2 thrust the images of atom bombs and the science behind them into the collective consciences of the world. Sputnik 1 now gave designers a new form with which to inspire Space Age style and that form lives on today in Mid Century Modern design's most beloved chandelier shape.

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